

# TOWN OF EASTON



ANNUAL REPORT  
2007

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Provided here are reports from our Officials, Commissions and heads of departments of the Town and General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2007. The information compiled provides residents of Easton with a comprehensive review of the operation of the Town, its finances, and educational system.

Your Board of Finance, who is charged with preparing this report, wishes to thank all who supplied the information and data included. We are grateful to Grace Stanczyk, who was responsible for overall coordination and planning and to Diane Zadrozny for assisting.

Andrew Kachele, Chairman  
Board of Finance

The cover photograph was taken by Easton photographer John F. Hill. The image was awarded first place at the 2008 annual photography exhibit put on by the Easton Arts Council. More of John's work can be seen at [www.johnfhill.com](http://www.johnfhill.com)

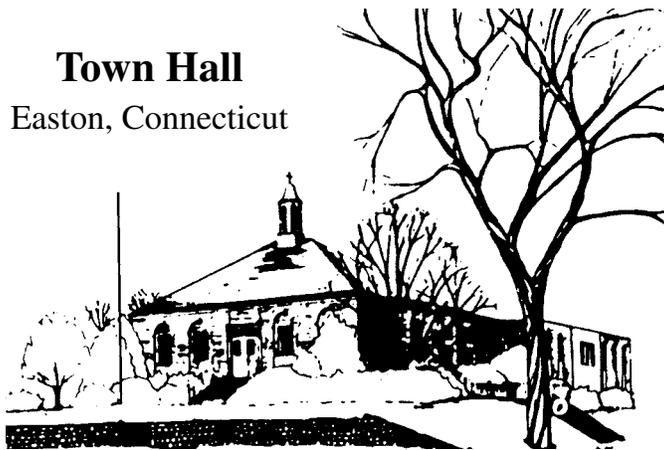


**Town of Easton**  

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Town Hall**  
Easton, Connecticut





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# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Easton is governed by the Town Meeting (which is the Town's legislative body), the Board of Selectmen (its executive and administrative body), and the Board of Finance (its financial body). The Easton Board of Education is responsible for Town schools and the Regional Board of Education is responsible for Joel Barlow High School. These two boards of education share a central office staff with the Redding Board of Education.

The Town is administered through a three-member Board of Selectmen with the First Selectman being the chief executive officer of the Town. The Selectmen serve for two-year terms which commence immediately following the election in odd numbered years. No more than two Selectmen can be from the same political party. The Selectmen hold regular meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., usually in the Town Hall conference room. Special meetings are held as required. Citizens are encouraged to attend meetings and time for public comment is allowed.

A number of able boards, commissions, committees, volunteers, and employees assist in the Town's operations. The reports of those entities are contained in this annual report and your attention is directed to them. Without the dedication of each of the individuals involved, Easton would suffer. With their dedication, Easton excels as a great place to live.

A Senior Center Building Committee has been appointed and is working on plans to move the Senior Center up to a portion of the northerly wing of the old Samuel Staples Elementary School. A grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 has been obtained from the State and a block grant in the amount of \$750,000.00 based on federal funding has also been obtained. Other grants are being sought. Once the Senior Center is out of its space on the lower level, a Town agency, possibly Parks and Recreation, will locate its offices in that area. Other portions of the northerly wing and eventually the southerly wing, if Easton Country Day School vacates, may be used for Town purposes. At present, some of the areas are used for storage. The Central Offices of the Easton/Redding Boards of Education will be moving into a portion of the northerly wing effective summer 2008.

The Tax Relief for the Elderly Ordinance remained in effect for the 2007 assessment year. The existing ordinance is one of the most beneficial to seniors in the entire State. In accordance with the ordinance, a Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee will be formed in 2008 to review the ordinance again and determine if other means of tax relief are warranted.

Contracts with each of the unions representing Town employees have been settled through June 30, 2009 for the firefighters, through June 30, 2010 for the police, through June 30, 2012 for the highway department and through June 30, 2012 for Town Hall employees and supervisors. The Human Resources Advisory Committee continues to review individual positions and non-represented positions for recommendations to the Board of Finance.

The proposal for an affordable housing development on South Park Avenue has been denied, both by the Conservation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission. The developer has appealed those decisions and the appeal is still pending. The same developer previously applied for an age restricted housing development which was also denied and also under appeal.

A large parcel of land located on the northwest corner of Route 136 and Sport Hill Road faces the possibility of development. The owner has proposed to the Department of Environmental Protection, a septic system to serve an intensified age-restricted development. The DEP has not yet made a decision as to the septic application, but the Department of Health has reviewed the plans and is opposed to the project. Thus, development of the parcel is still uncertain.

The Town must continue to be vigilant in its role as guardian. Easton is a unique Town in Fairfield County, and we must work to protect the watershed and the region's water supply.

In addition to these issues, the Board of Selectmen continues to oversee the day to day operations of the Town. Citizens are encouraged to contact the First Selectman's Office with any questions or suggestions they may have.

The Board of Selectmen thanks the many citizens who have contributed their time and expertise to the Town by serving on its boards, commissions, and committees. We also thank all of you for helping to keep Easton special.

The Board of Selectmen

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler, Selectman  
Scott S. Centrella, Selectman

## **TOWN CLERK REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS**

The Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics are elected for a two-year term. In Easton, these responsibilities are combined in one person. A brief summary of these responsibilities is listed below.

- Create, manage, preserve and maintain an archive of land records and other town records from the date of incorporation in 1845 until the present.
- Create and maintain an archival Daily, Grantor and Grantee Index of Land Records.
- Record and maintain an archival record of Births, Marriages, Deaths and Burials.
- Create, manage, preserve and maintain an archive of all town records including Minutes and Agendas of all Boards, Committees and Commissions.
- Create, manage, preserve and maintain an archive of all Town Meeting Minutes and Records
- Manage the issuance, verification, collection and delivery of Absentee Ballot Applications and Ballots.
- Swear in all Officers and Members of all Boards, Committees and Commissions
- Issue Connecticut State Sports Licenses for residents and non-residents. This includes resident and non-resident: firearms; fishing; hunting and fishing; and firearms fishing and hunting. Resident: trapping; junior trapping and over age 65. Non-resident: three day fishing. Also included are HIP permits, handicapped; and junior firearms hunting.
- Sell Pheasant Tags; Migratory Bird Stamps as well as daily and lifetime fishing permits that are free to those age 65 years and older
- Sell fishing permits for Aquarion, Inc. facilities in town
- Sell Dog Licenses for all dogs 6 months old and older. Connecticut state statutes require that all dogs be licensed in the town in which they reside and have a valid rabies certificate that must be presented at the time of licensing. License fees are \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs, and \$19 for male and female dogs. A certificate of spaying or neutering must be presented at the time of licensing. There is a \$1 late fee for each month or fraction of a month that the license is late. Licenses are on sale in the month of June for the following license year that runs from July through June inclusive.
- Provide Notary services
- Provide certified copies of public records.
- Act as Sexton the four town cemeteries where there is none

### **Land Records, Maps, Agendas and Minutes**

The State Statutes define a primary function of the Town Clerk's office is to maintain and preserve an archival record of all of the Maps and Land Records relating to real estate transactions. They also require records of all liens and releases including mortgages and mortgage releases. This permits residents and the public to trace and verify titles to property. Similarly, an archival record of the Agendas and Minutes of Boards, Committees and Commissions, Town

Meetings and Town Ordinances must be maintained so that a traceable record of town governance issues is available to the public.

On assuming office in 2002, it became clear that the system simply could not handle the volume of documents, and other work, despite the best efforts of the office staff. In addition, the Minutes and Agendas were stored on non-archival paper, in non-archival binders, and were not indexed making retrieval very difficult. The statutory required microfilm copies did not exist. As a result, new procedures had to be established.

At that time, we decided on a long-term plan that included the following:

- Focus first on the Land Records and later on the Minutes, Agendas and other issues
- Clear up the backlog
- Establish as an operating procedure that "an average day's work must be completed each day on average." This is necessary to prevent the backlog from again growing into a large volume of unprocessed work.
- Establish systems capable of handling the work volume efficiently.
- Establish the staff levels needed to get the work done.
- Establish methods of dealing with the large increase in recording and other transactions.
- Establish office hours consistent with the work load and the staffing level
- It was apparent that new technology was required. However, the cost of a commercial solution was prohibitive. Instead a combination of commercial hardware and proprietary software was developed. Proprietary software was developed at no cost to the town and combined with commercial hardware. This results in a very large, and continuing, annual cost saving to the town.

This strategy together with increased funding has permitted the following changes:

- New technology was developed to process the documents. This resulted in the development of a low cost system for handling the volume of land records and maps. The cost of processing a land record document was reduced by more than 80%.
- The imaging of all of the land records and maps so that these are now available to the public. This enables us to offer easy access to the information and to simplify the making of copies. At the same time, we have been able to restrict access to the delicate old maps and land records and help to preserve them.
- The imaging of all Minutes and Agendas up to the end of calendar 2006
- The initial focus has been on land records. The resources available have permitted little, or no, attention to the Minutes and Agendas problem.
- Software has been developed for numbering Agendas and Minutes when workload permits.

## Long Term Objectives

Overall, our long-term objectives are as follows:

- Establish a computerized point of sale system for all incoming documents and licenses. The intent is to simplify the accounting so that at the end of the day and the end of the week it is a simple matter to close the books and allocate funds to the appropriate accounts.
- Establish a computerized system for recording and indexing all Land Records and Maps
- Establish a computer database of images of all Land Records and Maps
- Make our own record volumes in order to reduce the cost and make the volumes available on the shelf immediately
- Make the land records and maps available on line to interested parties.
- Establish the technology for printing copies of the Land Records and Maps.
- Establish a database of images of all Minutes, Agendas and other town records
- Establish a computerized system for recording and indexing all Minutes, Agendas, and other town records
- Preserve archival records by limiting public access to these records
- Make applications for Absentee Ballots and Licenses available on line.
- Computerize Absentee Ballot processing
- Make available on-line a calendar of events and meetings in Easton.

## Current Status

The status of our long-term objectives is as follows:

- Since 2002, we have had our own point of sales system operating successfully. This system permits automatic registration and costing of the more than fifty products that we sell. It also records both the funds paid and the method of payment and allocates the funds to the appropriate accounts. At the end of the day, it is a simple matter to close the books and account for all of the funds. It drastically reduces the time required for closing. This reduces errors and greatly simplifies the closing process. It also creates a comprehensive database of all transactions that permits us to evaluate transactions to correct any errors or omissions that occur.
- The same point of sale system permits us to mark incoming Land Records with a number, time and date of receipt as required by statute. It has now progressed to permit direct annotation of recording information on the image of the land record documents.
- The point of sale system also permits annotating marginal notes on land records as are required by law, and facilitates the maintenance of a dynamic image record database of Land Records.
- Since 2004 we have been making our own archival books of Land Records and Index books in house eliminating the time delay from shipping offsite
- Since 2004 we have indexed all of the Land Records and Maps in house eliminating the time delay from shipping offsite

- Since 2004 we have numbered all of the Land Records and Maps in house eliminating the time delay from shipping offsite
- The database of images of Land Records, Maps and Liens is complete. Land Records and Liens are updated in real time as new records are received. Maps are scanned in real time, in house, and are now only sent out for microfilming. Overall, this has eliminated the need to refer to the original Maps or Records.
- A calendar of events is available on the town website as is a weekly update of real estate sales.
- Absentee ballots are now handled by proprietary software developed in house for the purpose
- Marriage Licenses and Civil Union licenses are now handled in house using proprietary software developed for the purpose
- Dog Licenses are now handled in house using proprietary software developed for the purpose
- Senior Tax Relief benefits are managed using proprietary software developed for the purpose
- Software for numbering and date and time stamping Agendas and Minutes has been developed and will be implemented when workload permits.

The following objectives await the allocation of more resources to address these problems.

- On line, access to the Maps and Land Records awaits software development, or town funding of commercial software acquisition.
- Map Index and search software has been developed. The database has been implemented this year
- The Minutes and Agendas will be addressed when resources permit. The methods and approaches developed for the Land Records apply directly to the Minutes and Agendas
- The database of images of Minutes and Agendas awaits the completion of the work on Land Records and Maps.
- Budget constraints have not yet permitted the return to normal office hours

## Real Estate Sales

The table below compares fiscal year 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. In these year's we recorded the following real estate transactions in which more than \$10 was exchanged:

	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>
Number of transactions	169	148	122	112
Average Sale Price	\$660,263	\$711,980	\$816,275	\$789,559
Median Sale Price	\$587,500	\$650,000	\$735,500	\$735,000
Maximum Sale Price	\$1,670,000	\$1,950,000	\$2,750,000	\$3,150,000
Minimum Sale Price	\$14,400	\$21,125	\$9,836	\$17,500
Total Value of Sales	\$111,774,129	\$105,373,008	\$99,585,644	\$88,430,601

Please note that these numbers do not include a large number of transactions between family members, or estates, in which no, or insignificant, funds changed hands. In total 226 transactions were recorded in 2006-2007 of which 114 were for \$10 or less. Note also that several transactions were for land only. The numbers reported above apply only to homes sold in Easton. It would be an error to over interpret this

information. For example, the slight decrease in the average price could be caused by the lower priced homes selling better than higher priced homes because of the condition of the national, or local, economy. This change in the distribution of sales would have the same effect as reduced prices.

Overall, compared to last year, the average decline was approximately: 3% of home sale price; 8% of the total number of transaction; and 11% of the total sales value. The median sales price was unchanged. This probably represents a better estimate of the change in the value of homes sold.

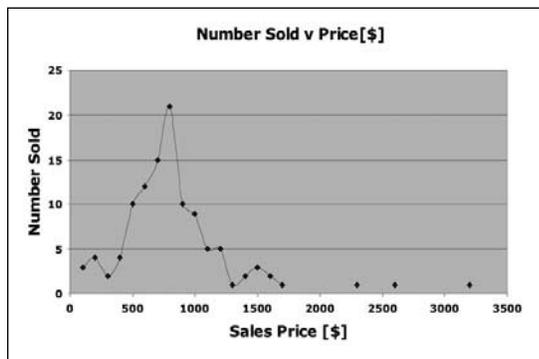
As in past years, there appears to be a tri-modal distribution of home sales. At the lower end of the range, the few sales below \$100,000 probably represent partial ownership, undeveloped lots, or special situations. At higher prices, above \$1,300,000, the transactions probably represent the newly built homes that tend to be larger and more expensive, or land sales. In the middle are average home sales.

In 2006-2007 91% of sales respectively, were between \$17,500 and \$1,300,000 and represent the range of average homes sold.

The chart below illustrates, for 2006-2007, all transaction except for the 114 transactions that changed hands for \$10 or less.

Note the following:

- There is a large distribution of transactions, up to approximately \$1,300,000, that probably represents existing homes.
- There is a second peak around \$1,500,000 that appears to represent the relatively few large homes that are being built in town
- There are a few transactions for more than \$1,500,000 that appears to be land purchases.



**Maps**

All of Easton’s maps are now available as images in a comprehensive database. This includes Land Record maps, Assessors maps, Roads, As Built and Fire District maps. These can be reviewed on a computer screen and printed out in a variety of sizes including full size, letter, legal and ledger size. The plan is to make them available on the internet in the future

**Marriage Licenses**

Easton uses proprietary software to completely automate license processing and generating an integrated database. The system uses an electronic version of the Marriage license form developed in conjunction with, and approved by, the State of Connecticut. The use of this system saves the town the significant expense of outside vendors. At the same time, it facilitates simple reporting and searching. The software and form is approved for statewide use and has been adopted by many Town Clerks in Connecticut. A similar system has been developed and is used for Civil Unions.

The tables below summarize the total number of births, marriages, civil unions and deaths record in Easton for the calendar years 2001 through 2005. Civil Unions have only been permitted since 2005.

Calendar Year	Births		
	Boys	Girls	Total
2001	51	45	96
2002	48	28	76
2003	29	36	65
2004	30	30	60
2005	42	46	88
2006	34	25	59
<b>Total [#]</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>Total [%]</b>	<b>52.7%</b>	<b>47.3%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Calendar Year	Marriages	Civil Union	Total	Deaths
2001	38		38	53
2002	42		42	58
2003	46		46	44
2004	30		30	44
2005	41	2	43	38
2006	34	0	34	39
<b>Total [#]</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>276</b>
<b>Total [%]</b>	<b>116.1%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**Dog Licenses**

Easton also uses proprietary software that automates the data entry and processing of dog licenses. This automates the printing of a license form approved by the Department of Agriculture for statewide use. It creates a comprehensive database for future use. This system saves the town the significant expense of similar systems from vendors including the cost of specialized forms.

We have also initiated license renewal by mail. Details of the renewal by mail can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office, or off the town website [www.eastonct.org](http://www.eastonct.org).

We are collecting email addresses as dogs are licensed so that we can build an email address book of dog owners. This year we were able to send out many renewal reminders by email as our email list increases. The intent is to collect as many email addresses as possible to minimize the cost of reminders and maximize the service to dog owners.

The email program combined with a group of Senior volunteers who placed multiple telephone call reminders to all other dog owners has eliminated all mailing and printing expenses.

During the fiscal year, we issued the following licenses:

Male	85
Female	50
Neutered	562
<u>Spayed</u>	<u>560</u>
Total	1,257
Small Kennel	4

A small kennel can have up to 10 licenses.

The Total Fee paid was \$13,503.50. This is 20 more dog licenses and \$119.50 more revenue compared to last year.

### **Elections**

The Town Clerk is responsible for processing Absentee Ballot Applications and Absentee Ballots. This requires verification that the voter is registered, retention of a record of who has applied and who has voted, and when, together with a record of which, and when, the ballots were delivered to the Registrar of Voters.

This year the work with the Assistant Registrar of Voters has continued to develop and improve the proprietary computer based system that automates this entire process and permits real time review of the list of registered voters when an application, or a ballot, is requested. This system has been in place, and used successfully, for the last several elections and continues to evolve as we learn how to use it.

### **Website**

The Easton Town website [www.eastonct.org](http://www.eastonct.org) is divided into departmental sectors. The Town Clerk's section has been augmented by the addition of the following:

- Calendar of Meetings and Agendas
- List of Home Sales and Transfers
  - updated weekly and annually
- List of Elected Officials
- Voter Information
- Voter Registration
- Some Ordinances
- Absentee Ballot information

- Marriage License Application
- Marriage License Information
- Dog License information
- Recording Information
- Election Results
- Upcoming Events
- Announcements

### **Senior Tax Relief**

The Town Clerk's office designed and supported the software that is used to manage the Senior Tax Relief program.

### **Summary**

Our overall objective is to facilitate convenient access to the Town Clerk's office, and the information stored there, for all the public including those who work or cannot get in during office hours. This is a major reason for implementing the town website and internet access to the records.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Assistant Town Clerks Joan Kirk and Deborah Szegedi for their assistance and continued and ardent efforts and cooperation in assuring the smooth running of the office during this extended period of change. Jim Bromer, Assistant Registrar of Voters, has been especially helpful in developing the software needed to manage the Absentee Voting applications and ballots and assisting in providing and maintaining the required database of voters. The Senior Center and Senior volunteers for help with dog license reminders.

Respectfully submitted

W. Derek Buckley

Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics

## **TOWN TREASURER**

Elected for a two-year term, the Treasurer of the Town of Easton is charged with managing the receipt, custody, investment, and authorized disbursement of the Town's assets. That management involves recording revenues received, establishing accounts that simultaneously safeguard and maximize returns on cash held pending its disbursement and accounting for the Town's financial activities during the fiscal year. In addition, the Treasurer actively oversees a bonding program to finance the Town's long-term projects while maintaining the Town's strong Moody's Aa1 rating.

The Treasurer operates an extensive investment program designed not only to generate income on cash awaiting disbursement, but also to invest on a longer-term basis in anticipation of the Town's projected capital budget requirements over the intermediate term. The income derived from that program has contributed substantially to the Town's revenue in the past, but as can be seen below, fiscal year 2007 was particularly rewarding with short-term interest rates remaining relatively high throughout the period.

**Town of Easton Investment Income**

<b>Year Ended June 30</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2007	\$783,156	\$20,713	\$803,869
2006	396,294	23,098	419,392
2005	377,295	33,453	410,748
2004	284,974	21,108	306,082
2003	308,677	13,123	321,800
2002	468,777	63,378	532,155
2001	770,095	24,214	794,309
2000	492,581	15,030	507,611
1999	406,253	16,767	423,020
1998	398,995	6,770	405,765

Having completed the major funding for the new Samuel Staples, the Town has entered into a period where new, substantial borrowing initiatives are not anticipated. Rather the Treasurer’s office immediate concerns focus on the orderly retirement of debt, refunding existing bonds when the interest rate environment will lower borrowing costs and managing a relatively modest short-term borrowing exposure.

Beyond its investment and debt management duties, the Treasurer’s office is responsible for Easton’s accounting and reporting requirements as well as gathering information for, and aiding in, the preparation and monitoring of each year’s fiscal budget. Over the past twenty years Easton’s budget has experienced a fivefold increase generating a need for better and faster information gathering and dissemination by the Treasurer’s office. To that end, a new information processing system has been installed, and guided by the Town’s Comptroller, its integration into the Town’s financial management framework is underway.

Lastly, the Treasurer’s office is responsible for payroll processing, and as such, is a focal point for Human Resources matters. During fiscal year 2007 a new payroll system was introduced, is fully transitioned from the former system and is now in place for the new year.

No set of fiscal responsibilities can be adequately managed without a dedicated, knowledgeable staff. That dedication and commitment centers on Grace Stanczyk, the Town Comptroller, who remains the Town’s steward of good accounting and budget practice and the source of fiscal information for the Town’s officials, department heads, employees and its interested citizenry. Grace is joined by Kathleen Loudon whose efforts with the Town’s payroll and human resources activities made the transition to the aforementioned new system possible and Diane Zadrozny whose prompt and accurate processing of the Town’s payables makes dealing with Easton a businesslike experience for vendors and citizens alike.

Respectfully submitted,  
John F. Campbell, Treasurer

**TOWN ATTORNEY**

Since November of 1997, there has been no single Town attorney for Easton. On September 2, 2004, the Board of Selectmen changed the method of selecting attorneys. Attorneys are now selected not by the First Selectman, but by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen has now adopted a comprehensive policy dealing with the use of Town attorneys.

Legal representation is required not only when the Town is a party to litigation, such as in an appeal from an agency decision, but also in connection with more routine matters. In some instances, the interests of the Town are protected by lawyers supplied by our insurance company in a matter where there is insurance coverage.

During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, and into the start of the 2007-2008 fiscal year, Easton was required to make significant use of attorneys. Attorneys have primarily represented the Town and its agencies in connection with land use, labor, tax assessment and bonding matters. Some opinions on legal questions have also been needed. One significant use of counsel was in connection with the South Park Avenue development including the appeal taken when the project was denied by both the Conservation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Town also continued to require representation in connection with several freedom of information requests.

Easton, along with a large number of other towns, also continues as a defendant in an action claiming that some of the solid waste from the Town, which was claimed to contain hazardous materials, had been delivered to a site in New Jersey. Unfortunately, although Easton contributed little by way of solid waste to the New Jersey site and no hazardous materials, the Town continues to be involved in the environmental litigation which has a substantial exposure to Easton along with the numerous other defendants who are involved.

The attorneys who have worked for the Town on its various matters express their thanks for the cooperation of the various Town officials.

**TAX COLLECTOR**

As taxation is a state function, the Tax Collector is governed by state law. Municipalities have no powers of taxation other than those specifically granted by the General Assembly and described in the General Statutes. The Tax Collector performs the duties and exercises the powers prescribed by state law under the supervision of the State Office of Policy and Management. The Tax Collector is elected by the townspeople in odd-numbered years for a two-year term.

The Tax Collector performs administrative functions as follows: plans, organizes, directs and participates in the tax

billing and collection activities of the Town with regard to real estate, motor vehicle and personal property taxes in accordance with the established collection cycle; organizes and supervises the preparation and processing of all tax bills; receives, reconciles and deposits tax collections in a timely fashion and turns all monies received over to the Treasurer for deposit in the general fund; oversees the preparation of rate books; prepares tax warrants, rate bills and legal notices; updates, balances and reconciles rate books; prepares reports, records and statistical surveys for the Treasurer, Board of Finance, First Selectman, external auditors, Office of Policy and Management, and U.S. Department of the Census on a regular basis; prepares for the annual external audit.

Also: coordinates with the Assessor and Town Clerk the recording of new and changed property tax information; computes and records certificates of change and lawful corrections in accordance with Sec. 12-167(5); computes and issues prorated motor vehicle tax credits for vehicles that were sold, stolen or totally damaged during the tax year in accordance with PA 82-459; coordinates activities with the Board of Tax Review; prepares paperwork for issuing tax refunds in accordance with Sec. 12-129 and maintains all records of same; coordinates escrow payment systems with financial institutions holding mortgages on properties located in town; prepares revenue loss reports for the state regarding totally disabled, elderly freeze and circuit breaker state tax relief programs; administers the Town tax relief for elderly resident homeowners program according to Town ordinance; performs arithmetic computations with accuracy and maintains records in accordance with generally accepted accounting and bookkeeping practices and principles.

Also: prepares and files a suspense tax list in accordance with Sec. 12-165 and 167 and records suspense collections if and when received; prepares a list of delinquent taxes, indicating list year, amount of tax, interest and lien fees due, and last known address; sends delinquent notices and demands twice yearly in accordance with Sec.12-155; implements collection enforcement procedures against delinquent taxpayers and confers with delinquent taxpayers to arrange payment plans; arranges jeopardy tax collections in accordance with Sec. 12-163; files claims with the U.S.

Bankruptcy Court for taxes and fees due from bankrupt taxpayers; files tax liens against real property on which delinquent taxes are due at the end of the fiscal year and releases liens when taxes are paid in accordance with Sec. 12-172; prepares and submits to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) listings of delinquent motor vehicle taxpayers and promptly submits follow-up reports when taxes are paid; directs DMV to withhold registrations of delinquent motor vehicle taxpayers in accordance with Sec. 14-33 and 33(a); directs DMV to suspend registrations of taxpayers whose checks in payment of motor vehicle taxes are returned to the Town unpaid.

Also: prepares and recommends an operating budget for the office; organizes, maintains and updates filing systems for the

retention of required information and public records; provides information to attorneys, banking officials, town officials and the public regarding tax data and office procedures and policy; confers with the Office of Policy and Management, Assessors, Town Clerk, Comptroller, Treasurer, external auditors, Selectmen and Town Attorney on matters relating to the collection of taxes; posts to rate books every payment made, indicating amount paid and date of payment, and maintains backup records of same; attends regular meetings and a yearly seminar on tax collection with the Connecticut Tax Collector's Association as required by state statute, and in conjunction with the association drafts proposed legislation regarding tax collection for submission to the General Assembly; and deals with the public on a daily basis.

Tax bills on the October 1, 2005 grand list were issued at the rate of 26.57 mills, which is equivalent to \$26.57 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed property value. Real estate and personal property tax bills exceeding \$100 were payable in two installments, due July 1, 2006 and January 1, 2007. Motor vehicle taxes were due in full July 1, 2006. Supplemental motor vehicle taxes for newly acquired motor vehicles registered subsequent to October 1, 2005 were due in full January 1, 2007 in accordance with PA 77-343.

Taxpayers have one month from the respective due date in which to pay without penalty, after which interest is collected at the rate of 1-1/2% per month from the due date, in accordance with the state law. The Tax Collector has no discretion in the application of conditions or methods of levy or collection of taxes, and does not have the authority to waive the interest due on delinquent tax bills. As a matter of law, the taxpayer becomes liable to the Town for the tax due by virtue of his ownership of the property; the liability is neither created by nor dependent upon the receipt of a tax bill, and the failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the responsibility to pay the statutorily-required interest due on the late payment.

The Tax Collector is in full compliance with State of Connecticut revenue collection reporting obligations, and copies of the following reports are on file in the Town Clerk's Office:

- a. Tax Collector's Report of Collections, Sec.12-167(1-3). A total of \$32,924,113 in taxes, interest and lien fees was collected during fiscal year 2006-2007.
- b. Report of certificates of change and lawful corrections, Sec. 12-167(5) detailing all additions to and deductions from tax rolls according to list year, name, amount and reason. A total of \$51,931 in additions, and \$104,130 in deductions were made to the grand lists of 2001-2005.
- c. Report of transfers to suspense, Sec. 12-165 and 167, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of \$13,720 was transferred to suspense from the grand list of 2003.

d. Report of refunds, Sec.12-129, detailing list year, name, amount and reason. A total of 197 refunds were given, totaling \$59,053 on the grand lists of 2000-2005.

e. Liens: 26 liens for unpaid real estate taxes on the 2005 grand list were filed on June 30, 2007. Copies of these liens and all lien releases are on file in the town land records.

I am grateful to the townspeople for their support and for giving me the opportunity to serve as Tax Collector. I would also like to thank my assistant, Janice Greiser, and Jane Allen, my temporary help, for their professional and loyal support.

Patrice Hildenbrand, CCMC, Tax Collector  
 Janice Greiser, Assistant Tax Collector

**TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT ON COLLECTIONS:**  
 Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2007  
 (Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 12-167(1-3))

<b>List Year</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>1990-2004</b>
Total amount of unpaid taxes on each rate bill at start of fiscal year	\$32,787,753	\$506,082
Lawful corrections	-38,228	-20,548
Suspense	- 0 -	-13,720
Total amount collected on each rate bill during the fiscal year (tax, int., lien)	T: 32,583,227 I: 65,802 L: _____48	169,941 104,303 _____79
Total amount uncollected on each rate bill at end of fiscal year (excluding interest & liens)	\$166,298	\$301,873

**ASSESSOR**

It is the responsibility of the Assessor’s office primarily to list and assess all taxable and non-taxable properties located in the town of Easton. The three categories of taxable properties are Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Personal Property, such as office equipment, underground mains, hydrants, tunnels, unregistered motor vehicles, meters, towers, etc. The basic value of Real Property is determined by a physical inspection of the land and all structures located thereon, these structures and improvements include dwellings, garages, barns, sheds, pools, tennis courts, and gazebos.

Revaluations are conducted every 5 years and the 10<sup>th</sup> year a physical inspection is required per State Statute. This is most difficult since the normal duties of the assessor’s office and the work involved in performing the revaluation must be conducted concurrently.

The Assessor works with the Building Official and his office. Once a month the building department provides a list of building permits for the Assessor, she then proceeds to the property in question to measure any new construction a few times during the year. In addition to measuring, she also lists and assesses the property for tax purposes. Total values are equalized by the use of cost schedules and application of appraisal techniques. The valuation process requires skill,

specialized training, experience and use of sound judgement. She then inputs all information in the computer by sketching the structure or structures and any additions, porches, pools or sheds that are included in the building permit.

The Assessor and her assistant coordinates with the Tax Collector and Town Clerk on any new changes in property ownership, foreclosure, etc., and records them on the owners field card and puts all the information in the computer. Deeds are proof read. Properties are then determined to be useable or non-useable sales, which must be reported monthly to the State. All files, map book, street books and field cards are constantly updated as to changes of ownership and all changes are entered into the computer.

During the tax year, the Assessor and her assistant price and pro rate motor vehicles assessments for vehicles sold, stolen or totaled in accordance with section 12-71 and issue lawful certificates of correction when proof of sale & plate receipt is provided to the Assessors office in accordance with section 12-60 of the general statutes.

Services are also offered to all taxpayers who may have questions regarding their assessments. If the need arises, home visits are also made personally by the Assessor when ever necessary, to assist the physically handicapped taxpayer.

On matters relating to tax assessments and elderly forms, the Assessors office prepares the forms for taxpayers on the circuit breaker. The Assessors office calculates the forms for the elderly to be sent to the state for approval. When a tax payer sells their home or deeds it to a family member the exemption is then pro-rated. The Town tax relief for the elderly is also the responsibility of our office and can be applied for if their income complies with the Towns requirement.

All veterans’ exemptions and personal property are reviewed and updated yearly. Reductions are granted to low-income veterans if they comply with the States required income limit. Disabled and the blind can also receive an exemption when they apply in the Assessor’s office.

The Assessors office implements all public Act 490 Farm and Forest reductions. The forms are checked yearly for those eligible for a farm exemption to make sure that Taxpayers are complying by the State Statutes.

Survey maps are updated yearly, and transferred onto the Assessors maps. The Assessor reads the A-2 survey maps and computes the acreage of a subdivision, and or survey to adjust the acreage. A property card is then made up with corrections or additions. She then inputs the information in the computer for tax bills for the following year.

Services are provided to Town officials, departments, and/or commissions, surveyors, attorneys, title searchers, real estate appraisers, F.B.I., United States Internal Revenue Services, etc.

Streets and addresses are updated for the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications for the Department of Public Safety Division of Fire, Emergency, and Building Services. New streets and house numbers are checked for correction and addition.

The Assessor must interpret and put into effect any Connecticut public acts and statutes that are passed each year by State legislature. The acts and statutes are in constant flux and each year many of them are either modified, eliminated, and/or superseded by new laws.

The Office of Policy and Management determines the responsibility of the Assessor's office through general statutes of the State of Connecticut.

**SUMMARY OF 2006 AND 2007 GRAND LIST**

<b>Number of Assessment Lists</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Real Estate	3361	3355	- 6
Personal Property	385	391	+ 6
Motor Vehicles	7527	7532	+ 5
<b>Gross value of taxable property</b>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Real Estate	1,547,795,580	1,578,157,280	+ 3,061,700
Personal Property	12,541,489	12,809,823	+ 268,334
Motor Vehicles	73,512,990	74,672,745	+ 1,159,755
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,660,850,059</b>	<b>1,665,639,848</b>	<b>+ 4,489,789</b>
Teresa Rainieri ASSESSOR	CCMA	Louise Oakes ASSISTANT	

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

As elected State Officials, one Republican and one Democrat, we are the Administrators of election for the Town of Easton. Our charge is to guarantee and preserve the voting rights of all our citizens in a fair and equitable manner. Upon their election, each Registrar then appoints a deputy who shall assist the Registrars in the performance of their duties.

New legislation in the past year has transferred almost all of the duties concerning elections from the Town Clerk to the Registrars. Duties retained by the Town Clerk include responsibility for Absentee Ballots up until the time they are delivered to the Registrars, ballot layout, and submission of nominating petitions.

These additional responsibilities for the Registrars, the new scanning machines and procedures for their use, and all of the new reporting responsibilities have seriously impacted the workload of the Registrars. However, the first election held under the new procedures on November 7, 2007, went very smoothly and we are proud to report that our Town came through the post election audit conducted by the Secretary of the State with flying colors. A total of 2,581 residents voted in that election.

We still, of course, have to comply with section 9-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes which require us to conduct an annual canvass of the town for the purpose of ascertaining the number of eligible voters in town. The canvass is held between January and May.

We are grateful to the wonderful election staff that turns out in every election, working long hours to help make our system work. The administrative staff of Samuel Staples School has been wonderful in making sure we have space for the elections and storage space between them. The school maintenance staff assists in the delivery of the tables, chairs and other items needed for the day and is there at the end of the day to help us break down and store the equipment. Our Town Public Works Department helps in signage and the police keep an eye on things throughout the day. We appreciate all of the work done by so many good citizens. Thanks to all.

The Registrar's office in the Town Hall is opened on Thursdays from 9:00a.m. to 1:30 a.m. The phone number is 268-6291. Special sessions are held throughout the year for registration of new voters.

As of January 28, 2008, Easton has a total of 5,060 registered voters. There are 1,084 Democrats, 1,721 Republicans, 2,240 Unaffiliated and 15 Other.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eunice K. Hanson, Republican Registrar  
Nicholas V. Soares, Jr. Democratic Registrar

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

The Building Department includes the services required for State of Connecticut Building Codes. It includes one (1) person certified by the State of Connecticut as a Building Official.

The Building Department office is located in the Town Hall and is supported by a part-time secretary who maintains the records and accounting of permits and fees. All types of new construction is received and subsequently permitted through the Building Department.

The Building Department is open:  
Daily 8:30 – 12:30 and 1:00 – 4:30

Subsequent permits are also issued for repair and alterations, pools, plumbing, heating and electrical work. The Building Official performs all field inspections relative to the aforementioned work. Enforcement of the State of Connecticut Building Code is paramount to the duties of the official.

The Connecticut General Statutes 29-252-1a, adopts as a reference code the 2005 Connecticut Building Code”, 2003 ICC International Building Code, 2003 ICC Residential Code, and National Electric Codes and N.F.P.A. update.

The Building Department researches public record and offers information and assistance for the safety and welfare of the public.

The Building Official prepares an annual operating budget for activities under his control and is responsible for the maintenance of building plans and records. He determines and initiates regulatory or legal action in cases of violation of building code ordinances.

The Building Department offers its expertise and services to the citizens of Easton and welcomes anyone to visit the department with their building problems or questions.

*Respectfully submitted,  
E. William Martin, Building Official*

<b>Building &amp; Zoning Permits 2006/2007</b>	<b>No. of Permits Issued</b>	<b>Estimated Value</b>
New Residences	5	\$1,945,200.00
Additions, Alterations & Re- pairs to Existing Buildings	71	\$4,016,482.00
New Non-Res. Structures (ie. barns, garages etc.	32	\$347,845.00
Swimming Pools	17	\$767,580.00
Affordable Housing	0	
Caretakers	0	
Tennis Courts	0	
Wood Stoves	0	
Demolition	0	
Church	1	\$2,713,420.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>\$9,790,527.00</b>
Electrical	184	
Plumbing	135	
Heating & Air Conditioning	103	
Tanks, ie. oil etc.	87	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>509</b>	

## **MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

The Municipal Agent is a person who is available and responds to the senior population of the community. This is a state-mandated position and each of the 169 towns in Connecticut has a Municipal Agent. The duties and responsibilities have increased in proportion to the growth of the elderly population. The agent is familiar with programs such as adult day care, meals on wheels, housing, home health care agencies, mental health, legal referrals and all town, state and federal programs such as elderly tax relief, Medicare and veteran's programs.

The Municipal Agent is a separate department by itself although housed in the senior center. A monthly newsletter is sent to households, which have someone over age 50 living in them. This newsletter, which is combined with the Senior Center program, continues to be the chief means of disseminating information regarding resources and benefits.

In addition to the Municipal Agent who has office hours from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm every working day at the Senior Center, Outreach Worker, Pamela Healy, is also available to visit homebound or seniors who have been referred to as needing a visit. She is a much-valued extension to the Municipal Agent and can provide needed information as well as a warm personality and good listening skills.

Keeping loved ones in their own homes is a priority. Outreach Worker, Pam Healy, has an ever-growing list of private home-health aides and caretakers. References are checked before the individual is added to the list. Information about the pros and cons of hiring private pay individuals against those of an agency is also given to individuals requesting this list. A list of private agencies in the area is also available.

Seniors with limited income feel particularly vulnerable as the years go by. The Municipal Agent also has information, which could be helpful in addressing the problem. The web site [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org) is an exceptional help. Issues dealing with family adjustment to aging and health problems are also a concern. More children of the elderly are calling and requesting help in dealing with them. The Municipal Agent sends her newsletters to relatives who request them. This helps them to be aware of benefits available to their loved ones.

As people grow older, cases of self-neglect and inability to cope are growing and, at times, have been referred to the State Department of Protective Services. The Municipal Agent is mandated to report these cases.

Twenty-five holiday gift bags were delivered in December. Items for the bags are acquired through donations and monies from the Martha Carrie Schurman fund. The fund was founded by Al Schurman in memory of his wife. Through Al's generosity, seniors in need have been able to obtain needed services.

It is hoped that Easton seniors will continue to ask for assistance. The Municipal Agent and Outreach Worker, Pam Healy, will be happy to serve them. Patricia R. Finick, Municipal Agent

## **EASTON SENIOR CENTER**

In February 2008 the Easton Senior Center Building Committee signed a contract with AI Engineers in order to begin renovations to a 12,000 square foot area of the old Samuel Staples School. This will constitute the newly renovated Easton Senior Center that is to be opened later in the year.

Financing for the new center will be provided almost in its entirety by both Federal and State grants. As of going to press financial sources include:

2002-2003 STEAP GRANT	\$500,000
SMALL CITIES GRANT	\$750,000
TOWN OF EASTON REQUIRED MATCHING GRANT	\$ 75,000
BOND FUNDING ( <i>waiting for verification</i> )	\$219,510
2008 STEAP GRANT ( <i>Waiting for approval</i> )	\$500,000

As none of these grants are available for the purchase of furniture, fundraising has begun for this project also. At this time the William T. Morris Foundation in Westport has appropriated \$20,000 to provide furnishings. Thanks are due to past Easton resident, Kathleen Pavlick for her efforts and assistance in securing this grant.

This whole renovation project will be completed at a minimal cost to tax payers and especially to seniors who will be able to take advantage of the expanded facilities.

Thanks are especially due to past First Selectman, Bill Kupinse, present First Selectman, Tom Herrmann and Selectmen Scott Centrella and Robert Lessler, Congressman Chris Shays, Minority Leader Senator John McKinney and State Representative John Stripp. Without the efforts of all these special folks this project would not have been as successful and financially feasible.

The Easton Senior Center also continues to thrive annually and presents a diverse selection of programs as a result of donations from Easton Residents, the Easton Lions Club, the Easton PBA, residents from other towns, stores, businesses, corporations and foundations.

All programs at the Center are paid for by these donations. There is no cost to the taxpayer.

Special thanks are also due to the charitable Board of the Easton Senior Citizens' Center, Inc., President Nancy Graham and officers Jim and Laurie Mellen as well as Walter Eastwood, who has been Treasurer of over 10 years.

The Town Senior Center Advisory Board is also a great helping hand as they always participate in fundraising.

Janet Gordon chairs the Advisory Board, other Members include Attorney Sharon Cregeen, Prabha Gupta, Joan Kirk, Dr. Claire Paolini, Dr. Sal and Mrs. Marilyn Santella, Bridgette Shkreli, Alice Weisman, and Andy Wolff.

Last but not least, kudos to Kay Oestreicher, my assistant; Aimée Georg, the van driver and Maria Mauro the custodian, without their efforts my job would be unbelievably difficult.

There is no doubt that the Easton Senior Center has a wonderful family and support system. This is the secret of its success. Thanks so much to everyone for making my job a little easier.

Val Buckley, Director.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department's Office is located in the Town Hall and is supported by a Director of Health, a Health Officer along with a secretarial staff who maintains the records and accounting of permits and fees.

Our department covers a multitude of responsibilities. We issue septic and well permits, food service permits, inspect day care centers and schools, and respond to all complaints of a public nature. We routinely monitor communicable infections, working closing with the Epidemiology Section of the State Health Department. We have free literature covering a wide array of public health topics that we keep available to local residents.

We have again had a very busy year. We continue to work on protocols for addressing the possibility of a flu pandemic. We handled and responded to a number of infectious disease cases that occurred throughout the year and also worked on a number of public awareness campaigns for common illnesses. We joined with surrounding health departments in supporting the Deer Alliance in its efforts to combat lyme disease.

Throughout the year we attended numerous training seminars in bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, food service sanitation, sewage disposal, drinking water safety, and public health education. We used grant monies from the Department of Public Health to hire a part-time field worker to help with the seasonal demands for soil testing and site inspections. We also worked closely with the local schools and newspapers in addressing various public health topics.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
 Christopher Michos MD, Director of Health  
 Polly Edwards RS, Health Officer

HEALTH PERMITS	2006/2007 Permits Totals	Fee Totals
SEPTIC (NEW)	25	\$4,200.00
SEPTIC (REPAIR)	11	\$1,050.00
SEPTIC (REVIEW)	99	\$5,275.00
WELLS	20	\$1,500.00
SOIL TEST	55	\$4,150.00
FOOD SERVICE	13	\$1,300.00
TEMP FOOD SERVICE	14	\$615.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>\$18,090.00</b>

# ***PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT***

## **EASTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The Easton Public Works Department continued in its efforts to maintain and improve the 94.23 miles of roads and in caring for other Department responsibilities.

The department's duties include: snow and ice removal during the winter season; street sweeping; pot hole repairs; roadside mowing; guide rail repairs; installation and repair of street and traffic signs; tree and brush removal; installation and repair of curbing; and maintaining Town bridges, road paving, drainage installation, and catch basin cleaning.

Though the department is a much varied and capable unit dealing with many facets of road construction and repair, the department is most always in people's minds when snow and icy roads occur. Easton had a total of 14" inches of snowfall, which required the Department to plow on 4 different occasions. Sanding of the Town roads occurred 15 times consuming 2,427 tons of sand and salt mixture in the process.

The Public Works Department's spring and summer months are used to prepare roads that will be involved in the Town's chip sealing program for that year. Included in the preparation of the roads are brush cutting, grading back the road edges, removal of boulders from under the existing pavement, patching of these holes, installation of any needed drainage or repairs to existing drainage, sweeping of the road and the application of a leveling course of asphalt to maintain proper drainage, which leads to the application of liquid asphalt and then covered with a layer of 3/8" Trap Rock. The program comes to its completion about a month later when the excess stone is swept up. During the past year, 10.11 miles of road were involved in this program, with the use of 44,312 gallons of road oil, 1,834 tons of 3/8" Stone and 3,274 tons of bituminous concrete.

This past year the Department's drainage program entailed:

- 1 New manhole was installed
- 10 New catch basins were installed
- 10 Catch basins were repaired or rebuilt
- 655 Feet of storm pipe drainage was installed

On April 15, 2007 a Nor'easter caused many areas in Town to be washed out from the torrential rains. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) helped to offset the Town's expenses by reimbursing the department for labor and material costs in the amount of \$24,865.26, to repair these areas.

The Department takes care of all street and traffic control signs on the Town's roads. This past year saw 25 signs and posts repaired or replaced. Residents may have also noticed that on Routes 58, 59 and 136, new hi-visible signs have been installed. This is in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's mandated program.

The department purchased a new 2007 International Dump Truck with snowplow and a 2007 Elgin Street Sweeper.

Applications for 27 driveway permits and 16 road-opening permits brought in \$1,075 in fees.

For 12 weeks during the fiscal year a bucket truck was rented so that the Town's crew was able to render needed attention to dead trees and hazardous limbs hanging over Town roadways. This work was done in unison with the Town Tree Warden.

The department also contributed manpower and equipment time for cemetery maintenance of the Center Street cemetery under the direction of Derek Buckley, Town Clerk and Town Sexton along with members of the cemetery committee.

The department continued the maintenance responsibility of the former Samuel Staples School, now known as 660 Morehouse Rd. along with working for outside of the Public Works Department which accounted for over 2,112 hours of work throughout the Town in unison with the Park and Recreation Department, Board of Education, Town Hall, Library, Easton Police Department, Easton Fire Department, Conservation Commission.

Edward Nagy, P.E.  
Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

# **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

The Board of Finance, operating within the general statutes of the State, is responsible for all Town government finances. The Board is composed of six members elected for six year terms. At each biennial Town election two of these members are elected. In addition, there are three alternate members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. These alternates may serve at Board meetings in the absence of an elected member. The Board meets monthly, with special meetings called for annual budget reviews and as required for other purposes.

In the performance of its duties, the Board exercises all administrative functions necessary in preparing the annual budget for the Town. This process includes discussing with Town officials and department heads their proposed operating and capital expenditures, after which these requests are presented at a public budget hearing for questions and comments. The Board then prepares a final budget which is presented to the Town at the Annual Budget Meeting held on the last Monday in April in conjunction with the Annual Town Meeting. Once the Town approves a budget, the Board sets the tax rate for the ensuing year.

The Board is responsible for selecting an auditor of Town funds and publishing an Annual Town Report. During the year, the Board's concerns are focused on maintaining Town operations and departmental expenditures within approved budget limits. The Board acts to approve transfers between budget line items and special appropriations when necessary.

The 2006-2007 Town Budget in the amount of \$35,456,935 included appropriations of \$14,647,021 (includes Debt Service) in the Selectman's accounts, \$13,032,432 for the Easton Board of Education, and \$7,777,482 for the Region 9 Board of Education. On the basis of a Grand List of \$1,237,750,240 the Board set a tax rate of 26.57 mills for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

Respectively Submitted by  
Andrew Kachele, Chairman-Board of Finance

## **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

The Board of Assessment Appeals met for public sessions in fiscal year 2007-2008 during the month of March. The Board of Assessment Appeals also met in September of 2007 for Motor Vehicles.

The March sessions were for taxpayers with a grievance on either Personal or Real Estate property assessments. The September sessions were for motor vehicles only.

Tax payers by State Statute must file a form prescribed by law no later than February 20<sup>th</sup> in order to appeal their assessment.

All of these sessions were held under the direction of the State Statutes, by which the Board of Assessment Appeals also receives its authority.

Don Calvert, Chairman

Board Members  
Hugh Barry  
Judy Weinstein

## **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

A milestone in Easton's history was reached in June 2007 with official adoption of the Town's first comprehensive Plan of Conservation and Development, effective July 1, 2007. More than five years of effort and six public hearings preceded the Commission's unanimous vote to adopt the Plan, which replaced the original Town Plan prepared in the mid-1970's.

The major goals of the new Town Plan focus on preservation of the town's low-density residential character, conservation of its natural resources, and sound planning for future public facilities and civic needs. A Program of Action is proposed which identifies high priority short-term needs as well as long-term goals for the town. Among these are such items as an expanded senior center, recreation facilities development, future police and emergency medical facility needs, landmark preservation, capital programming, housing needs, updating of Town land use regulations, conservation of open space, recreational trails and much else. The Commission and its professional staff are committed to constructive guidance of town growth to achieve the fundamental goal of the Town Plan, a future living environment deeply satisfying to all of Easton's residents.

Several initiatives were undertaken by the Commission during the year to implement specific recommendations of the new Town Plan. A comprehensive historical and archaeological reconnaissance survey of the town, commenced in December 2006, will be completed in the fall of 2008. Comparative studies of nine possible sites were made to determine a feasible location for a new Town animal shelter. A master

plan for long-range conservation and development of the Town's 127-acre tract on Morehouse Road was initiated during the summer of 2007 and will be completed early in 2008.

Easton's Zoning Regulations are continuously monitored for appropriateness and consistency with the Town Plan. Two amendments were proposed by the Commission in 2006. One, a provision to establish a height limit of 35 feet above finished grade for all buildings, as well as to define a "habitable attic" and certain allowable exceptions in height for public or institutional buildings, became effective September 5, 2006. In October and November 2006 the Commission proposed regulations for protection of historic landmarks. After public hearings, this proposal was tabled to await a clearer definition of sites and buildings to be protected and appropriate procedures for their protection.

Three applications for special permit amendment were presented to the Commission during the year, each approved after public hearing. One authorized a new tennis court and revised site layout for the Easton Racquet Club. Another approved a plan by Phoenix Academy to conduct a pre-kindergarten facility within a portable classroom building leased from the Town at Old Staples School. A third decision allowed St. Dimitrie Romanian Orthodox Church to dispose of excess topsoil from its church construction site on Sport Hill Road. No new special permit sites or buildings were proposed during the year.

The region-wide slowdown in new construction activity was reflected in a reduced number of applications for subdivision and for zoning permits for new dwellings. Of the four subdivision applications received, two were approved, one was denied and one was withdrawn. One of the approved subdivision plans was subsequently not recorded in the Town land records, so the four subdivision proposals produced only one new building lot. Of the 137 zoning permits issued during the fiscal year, 133 authorized alterations or additions and only four were for new dwellings.

The Commission regularly reviews and reports on proposals for new public facilities in Easton, as well as on regional plans and development proposals potentially affecting Easton. The Commission also holds hearings on proposals for designation of Town Scenic Roads and on plans for any alteration of these roads. In July 2007, the Commission began review of a controversial proposal for major reconstruction of the Wells Hill Road bridge, located on a designated Town Scenic Road.

Two special meetings of the Commission were held during the year to deal with litigation and other pressing matters. Regular meetings of the Commission are scheduled for the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6:30PM, with public hearings commencing at 7:00PM, usually at the Town Hall conference room. Informal courtesy discussions on zoning, planning and subdivision issues are scheduled with the Commission by advance written request. Inquiries on

development questions may be directed to the Commission staff any weekday during regular hours at the Town Hall.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is composed of five regular members appointed to offset five-year terms by the Board of Selectmen. Three alternate members, typically appointed to shorter terms, attend all meetings and complement the Commission membership whenever vacancies or absences occur.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Maquat, Chairman

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Easton consists of five regular members and three alternate members who meet on the first Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Easton Town Hall. Regular members are elected for a term of six years and are empowered by the Connecticut General Statutes as are the alternate members under Section 8-5. In accordance with an ordinance effective March 6, 1974, alternates are appointed by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Easton for a term of six years.

During the fiscal year 2006-2007 the Zoning Board of Appeals met in session on eight occasions and heard 11 appeals with variances granted to nine applicants and two denials of variance applications.

John Harris, Chairman

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Easton's Conservation Commission acts as the town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency as well as the Conservation Commission.

As the Inland Wetlands Agency, it enforces the provisions of the State of Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act. In this capacity, it reviews applications for regulated activities, conducts site visits, and, if appropriate, holds public hearings prior to approving or denying a permit request. During the fiscal year from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, thirty-two applications were received: two were denied, one was withdrawn and twenty-nine were approved. Of the thirty-two applications received, nine were reviewed and approved by the Designated Agent. One Public Hearing was held. There was one request for an 'as-of-right' Declaratory Ruling which was approved. There were eight requests for extensions of time and all were approved. The Wetland Enforcement Officer issued two violations and two warning letters.

The Commission worked on revising the Inland Wetland Regulations for the Agency, as well as revising the Agency's fee schedule.

All new home owners who purchase property which has a Conservation Easement effecting the parcel of land are notified in writing and given the volume and page numbers of the filed easement.

The Conservation Commission is also responsible for maintaining town-owned "Open Space" and for planning for future open space acquisitions. To that effect, it works closely with developers and conservation groups and recommends to the Planning and Zoning Commission specific areas to be acquired by the Town or otherwise protected which are in line with the Town's Open Space Plan adopted in March of 1994. This fiscal year, the Town owned 11.7 acres located between Morehouse Road and Sierra Lane was designated as the Morehouse Brook Open Space. This parcel is adjacent to 3.6 acres of previously accepted open space land located off of Golfview Drive.

Currently, the Town owns nearly 300 acres of Town managed open space in various parts of Easton, with the single largest piece of it being the Paine Open Space on Maple Road. The Commission, through its Trail and Utilization Committee, its Open Space Management Committee as well as Boy Scout Troop 66, has maintained the existing trails and added more trails for the enjoyment of the people who walk the Paine Open Space. With the help of the Public Works Department erosion on several trails has been eliminated. The Commission also abandoned an established trail on the Paine property because it went through a wetland area, and established a new parallel trail outside the wetland area. The Commission is working on restoring a farm field on the property to encourage different species of wild life with the help of a neighbor and the Public Works Department. A twelve foot gate was recently installed at the lower access way to the Paine Open Space. In addition, signs were posted listing the rules and regulations of the Paine Open Space. The Conservation office maintains a list of Open Space parcels as well as a list of Conservation Easements. The Commission supplies Conservation Easement signs to be installed by applicants along any Conservation Easements that they may have on their property.

A new alternate member Marla Manning was appointed to the Commission on January 4, 2007.

The Conservation office is open daily from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Dunsby, Chairman

Officers for the Easton Conservation Commission:

Adam Dunsby, Chairman  
Stephen J. Edwards, Vice-Chairman  
Eleanor Sylvestro, Secretary

## COMMISSION FOR THE AGING

The Commission for the Aging was established pursuant to Section 7-127a of the General statutes and a Town Ordinance to develop and coordinate programs for the aging in the Town. The Commission consists of five (5) electors of the town of Easton, appointed for 3-year terms, at least three (3) of whom shall be representative the the age group concerned, and three (3) alternates in accordance with the by-laws.

The Municipal Agent, Pat Finick, who is appointed by the First Selectman, serves as an ex-officio member of the Commission in accordance with State Statutes.

The Commission shall:

- a. Study the conditions and needs of elderly persons in Easton in relation to housing, economic, employment, health, recreational and other matters.
- b. Analyze the services for the aged provided by the community, both by public and private agencies.
- c. Develop and coordinate programs.
- d. Make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding the development and integration of public and private agencies in co-operation with State and other services to the extent possible.

The Town may make appropriations for the expenses of the Commission and may, with approval of the board of Selectmen, participate in State, Federal and private programs and grants concerning the elderly.

The Commission is authorized and empowered to accept gifts or contribution for any of its purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes in accordance with the term of the gift as a separate fund subject to appropriations approved by the Board of Finance.

Commission meetings are held the first Monday of each month, with the exception of January, July and August, at 5:00 pm in the Senior Center. They are open to the public.

The Commission strongly advocated for continued senior tax relief and for a new senior tax deferral program as results of the senior survey sent in F.Y. 2005-2006.

Commission members are Cecelia Campbell, Nancy Gavigan, Gail Gay, Carol Hume, Teri Kelso, Janet Klein, Phyllis Neary, Sharon Poole, Also serving as members were: Linda Dollard , former chair, and Jennifer Alves.

## EASTON PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Commission plans, manages, and conducts municipal activities under its own sponsorship. Additionally, the Department promotes, assists and helps coordinate privately sponsored and managed recreation programs for the benefit of all Easton citizens. The mission is also directed toward the planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks and other recreational areas and facilities for the enjoyment of recreational opportunities and the creation of a better living environment.

Easton Parks and Recreation has continued its field development and maintenance programs throughout the Town of Easton. With the addition of playing fields developed at the Morehouse Property into its field rotation program, the fields have been able to be refurbished and repaired in a timely manner to insure the playability and durability of all fields for years to come.

Easton Parks and Recreation has remained vigilant in its mission to offer free and cost effective programs to Easton residents. The annual Fishing Derby, as well as both Movie Nights were well received and attended by residents of all ages. Programmatically, continued growth has been measured in our well subscribed offerings such as martial arts, multi sport programs and our Sunshine Day Camp. Overall, we saw over 2,000 participants in our free and cost-effective programming.

The Extended Day Program at Samuel Staples Elementary School continues to grow in enrollment. While providing a service to working parents, the program continues to be enjoyed by elementary school children. A tutoring program was introduced most recently and is fully subscribed. The Board of Education awarded the contract to Easton Parks and Recreation to continue to provide this service for the next three school years.

The Parks and Recreation Department will strive to continue to offer quality programs and cost-effective municipal recreational opportunities to all of the residents of Easton.

Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission are: John Cunningham-Chairman, Tom Cable, Michael Fleischer, Kathi Smith, Cheryl Everett, Robert Menegay and Kathy Roach.

## INSURANCE COMMISSION

### TOWN OF EASTON INSURANCE SCHEDULE

7/01/07 – 7/01/08

#### Commercial Property Coverage

Blanket Building & Contents	
Agreed Amount and Replacement	\$73,296,514
Contractor's Equipment	695,065
Fine Arts – Exhibition Floater	200,000
Miscellaneous Leased Property	51,963
Deductible	1,000

#### Commercial General Liability

	Each occurrence	\$ 1,000,000
Personal Injury/Advertising Injury	Each occurrence	\$ 1,000,000
Medical Expense	Each person	\$ 10,000

#### Boiler & Machinery

	\$100,000,000
Deductible	\$ 2,500

#### Commercial Automobile

Liability	\$ 1,000,000
Medical Payment	5,000
Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist	1,000,000
Comprehensive	ACV w/\$ 500 deductible
Collision	ACV w/\$1,000 deductible

#### Public Officials Liability

Each claim	\$ 1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim 5,000

#### Law Enforcement Liability

	Each claim \$ 1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim 5,000

#### School Leader's Legal Liability

	Each claim \$ 1,000,000
Deductible	Each claim 1,000

#### Following-Form Excess Liability

	\$10,000,000
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#### Pollution Liability

	per release \$ 1,000,000
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(Underground Oil Tanks)

Deductible	per release 10,000
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#### Worker' Compensation & Employer Liability

Statutory

Exp. Mod. .96

Employer's Liability

Each Accident \$1,000,000

Disease - Policy Limit \$1,000,000

Disease - Each Employee \$1,000,000

Blanket Public Employee Dishonesty Bond \$ 500,000

Specified In-Name Bonds

Tax Collector Bond 187,500

Asst. Tax Collector Bond 187,500

Retirement Plan Bond 160,000

Position Bonds

Treasurer 100,000

Comptroller 100,000

Human Resources/Compensation Coordinator 100,000

Account Payable/Receptionist 100,000

## **PENSION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMISSION**

The commission is comprised of seven appointed electors who serve four-year overlapping terms. The First Selectman is an Ex Officio member. Currently serving are the elected First Selectman, Chairman Alan P. Goldbecker, Vice-chairman A. Reynolds Gordon, Secretary Dennis Laccovole, John Campbell, Michael Keden, Marvin Gelfand and John Harrington.

The Commission holds six regular meetings annually, and special meetings as needed. It serves as Trustee and Administrator of the Town's pension plan, and approves benefit payments, reviews actuarial valuations and assumptions, and selects and monitors investments of pension plan assets. The commission also oversees the group health, life, disability and other welfare benefits provided for Town employees, and when called upon, assists and advises the Town regarding the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements.

The assets of the pension plan continue to be invested in domestic and international stocks and fixed income securities. The overall investment performance of the pension fund assets continues at a satisfactory pace. The Town's pension obligations are 3% over-funded as a result of investment returns in excess of the 7% income assumption.

In recent years the state unilaterally and dramatically enhanced pension benefits for state sponsored pension plans. The same benefits were requested by town employees. Resolution was reached by adopting much of the greatly enhanced benefits with increased contributions from the Town and Town employees. Current and future costs of the enhanced benefits should increase at a moderate rate. Costs of the Town's group health insurance program have escalated rapidly but in line with general experience.

Financial details regarding employee benefit plans are included in the Auditor's Report section of this Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan P. Goldbecker, Chairman

## **LAND PRESERVATION & ACQUISITION AUTHORITY**

The Land Preservation and Acquisition Authority was established by the Town of Easton, pursuant to Section 7-131p of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Authority has five regular members. The members are:

AnJenette Afridi, Chair  
Carolyn Colangelo, Secretary  
Victor Alfandre  
Gail Bromer  
Rob Ehlers

The Authority shall on behalf of the Town evaluate land for possible acquisition or development rights to such land. The Authority shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen as appropriate. Land will be evaluated for acquisition based upon its potential use for open space, recreation, or housing.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-131r, the Town established a Fund to be used for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining land and development rights within the Town of Easton. The Fund does not lapse at the close of the municipal fiscal year and is held in a separate, interest bearing account with all interest and income derived from the assets of the fund paid into the fund and added to the assets of the fund.

The Town, individuals, and public and private entities may all make contributions to this Fund. Any person seeking more detailed information or who is interested in donating land or money to the Fund is encouraged to contact the Authority. The Authority will provide additional information pertaining to conservation easements, deed restrictions, charitable contributions, and testamentary donations upon request.

Respectfully submitted,  
AnJenette Afridi, Chair  
Land Preservation & Acquisition Authority

# COMMITTEES

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Easton Cemetery Committee was established in 2004 as a permanent committee responsible for those cemeteries in Easton that do not have a Sexton, or a Perpetual Care Association. At the same time, the Board of Selectmen appointed the Town Clerk as Sexton of all cemeteries in Easton, which did not have a Sexton.

Easton has seven cemeteries. These are Aspetuck; Center Street; Den; Gilbertown; Lyon, Maple Grove and Union. Center Street is not active; it has family gravesites available but appears to have no other remaining gravesites. Den, Lyon and Gilbertown cemetery are inactive. The town is responsible for those inactive cemeteries that do not have a Perpetual Care Association.

Each of these cemeteries originally had a Care Association that managed the funds used to maintain the cemetery. Only Aspetuck, Maple Grove and Union are still active cemeteries with known active Care Associations. In the case of Center Street cemetery, the last remaining member of the Association was Dwight Fanton. The Fanton family has several used and unused gravesites in the cemetery and wishes to use the remaining sites in the future. Other families also have gravesites available.

The Board of Selectmen on 11/18/2004 established a Cemetery Committee with Full Members and Adjunct Members. Alternate Members were added later. It appointed the people listed below to the initial terms indicated. Each full membership position will be re-appointed to a full six-year term when the initial term expires. Later, David Silverglade was appointed as an Alternate member in order to ensure public representation. Subsequently Lois Bloom resigned, when her term as President of the Easton Historical Society ended, and she was replaced by the current President Lynne Geane. Later Gary Haines was appointed as a full member to represent Aquarion Water Company, Inc, which had provided financial support for the work at Den cemetery. Den cemetery is on Aquarion property.

They also established separate accounts to receive funds for each of the cemeteries to be expended in each case specifically on the cemetery in question. This was required because Dwight Fanton, the last known remaining member of the Center Street Care Association transferred the Association funds to the town for maintenance of that cemetery only. His son Jonathan Fanton is an Adjunct member because of the family interest in Center Street and in the family gravesites in the cemetery. The other cemeteries have no known funding sources.

Mary Lou Weinstein is an Adjunct member because she has family gravesites in Center Street Cemetery and, in the past, helped maintain the cemetery when others ignored it.

During the last year, the following has been completed:

- The Board of Selectmen approved that the Park and Recreation Department should be responsible for cutting the grass and maintaining the plants and trees to the extent possible. The Public works Department have been very supportive in the maintenance of the cemeteries
- A survey of the Center Street Cemetery was completed by Conservart LLC with recommendations on maintenance required. The Samuel Staples gravesite was selected as the first restoration project. It is located in the Gilbertown cemetery. Conservart, LLC had completed a survey of the gravesite and the indicated the required restoration work. This was undertaken when weather permitted and is now complete.
- The town appropriated \$7,700 to restore selected Bradley graves that were of historical importance as founder residents of Easton. These were cleaned and restored in the Spring. At the same time, the large trees that were growing from, or near, these and other graves were removed to prevent further damage. We are grateful to the Aspetuck Cemetery Association for an \$800 donation towards this task.
- At the same time, a photographic library of the cemetery and the individual gravestones was completed. Kevin Andrew King or "Drew" King is not an Easton resident but he has completed extensive research on Center Street Cemetery and has photographed all of the gravesites. Both he and David Silverglade have completed a survey of the cemetery so that the location of the gravestones was known before any work is undertaken.
- Ground penetrating radar was used to look under the ground and investigate a large clear grassy area in Center Street that appeared to be clear of gravesites. This work discovered almost 100 previously unknown graves in both Center Street and a similar number in Den cemetery. Drew King is engaged in extensive research that has uncovered a similar number of burials in Center Street cemetery that appear to have no known marker.
- In the Summer, a group of volunteers from Easton and other Connecticut communities sprayed and cleaned all of the gravestones in the Center Street, Den, Gilbertown and Lyon cemeteries.
- Cheryl Norton completed a short DVD of the work done on the Center Street cemetery. It is available for public viewing.

The current Cemetery Committee members are listed below. Thanks are due to them and other volunteers for the work done this year. Thanks are also due to Joan Kirk for the work as Secretary of the committee.

**Full Members Beginning**

W. Derek Buckley [Chair]  
Phil Doremus [Vice Chair]  
Lynne Geane  
Gary Haines

**Alternate Members**

David Silverglade  
Robert Bloom

**Adjunct Members**

Jonathan Fanton  
Kevin Andrew King  
Mary Lou Weinstein

Joan Kirk [Secretary]

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Derek Buckley, Chairman

**HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

The Human Resources Advisory Committee is charged with advising the First Selectman and the Town's boards, commissions, and other agencies regarding human resources practices and related matters including classification of Town positions.

During the 2007 year, the Committee reviewed and proposed adjustments, as appropriate, of selected job grade classifications and compensation rates.

The Committee also updated the Employee Handbook which covers non-union employees of the Town.

The membership of the Committee during 2007-2008 was Thomas A. Herrmann, Chair; William J. Kupinse, Jr., Elise Broach, Valerie Buckley; Grace Stanczyk and Kathleen Loudon.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas A. Herrmann, Chair

**EASTON RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

The Easton Recycling Committee members are: Thomas Collins, Anthony J. Colonnese, Thomas Dollard, Clinton Salko, Philip Snow, and Ed Nagy, (ex-officio), of the Public Works Department. The purpose of the Committee is to operate a recycling program for Easton within the guidelines of the Southwestern Regional Recycling Operating Committee (SWEROC) and the State Mandate. The Town of Easton voted at a Town Meeting held on September 20, 1989 to join SWEROC, and to start a recycling program in the Town of Easton. SWEROC has contracted with Fairfield County Recycling (FCR) to operate an Intermediate Processing Center (IPC) in Stratford, which accepts recyclable materials. Curbside recycling pickup started January 7, 1991. Recycling tonnage collected by the Town this Fiscal Year was 816.77 tons.

On July 3, 2006, Latella Rubbish, the Town's new recycling contractor, started curbside collecting of recyclables. With this new contract, residents are able to recycle junk mail, magazines, catalogs and corrugated cardboard.

The Towns of Trumbull, Easton and Monroe have put our resources together to form TEaM, which is our combined effort to operate a recycling drop-off center for scrap metal, commingled beverage containers, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, and used tires. It is TEaM's goal to expand this center's capabilities to accept additional recyclable products. Easton's share of recycled materials dropped off was 201.20 tons.

The volume of waste motor oil that was brought to the Public Works facility by Town residents for recycling was 1,886 gallons. This oil was sent to a recycler.

Edward Nagy, P.E. - Director of Public Works

**SOLID WASTE REPORT**

July 5, 1988, began the commercial operation of the Bridgeport Resource Recovery plant. As of that date, Easton no longer deposited solid waste directly at the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRRA) Landfill located in Shelton, Connecticut. The ash produced by the plant is deposited at a Putnam, Connecticut ash landfill. The Resource Recovery plant is designed to burn 657,000 tons of solid waste from the greater Bridgeport region of which the Town of Easton contributed 2,938 tons of solid waste during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The disposal fee for this solid waste was \$81.50 per ton.

# ***PUBLIC SAFETY***

## **BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Police Commissioners was created through a Special Act of the State Legislature, which was approved on June 22, 1937. The number of Police Commissioners was changed from three (3) to five (5) members at a Town Meeting held on October 21, 1992. The five (5) unpaid members are appointed for three (3) year terms. Meetings are held monthly, or for special meetings at the request of the Chairman or a majority of the members.

The members are:

John Neary, Commission Chairman  
Ronald Kowalski, Vice-Chairman  
Roger Wollen, Secretary  
Kathleen Cunningham  
Robert Nicola

The Board is charged with the organization, general management and control of the Police Department. It is also responsible for appointing a Chief of Police and police officers. It has control and management of all apparatus, equipment, and buildings owned and used by the Town for police purposes and, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. The Police Commission is responsible for the purchases of all equipment for the department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Commissioner John Neary, Chairman

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Police Department is charged with the enforcement of laws and preservation of peace within the Town of Easton.

The Easton Police Department exemplifies what this town represents - tradition, honor, commitment, strength and innovation. We dedicate ourselves to work in partnership with the community to provide public safety and to improve the quality of life in every neighborhood within the Town of Easton.

**The Police Explorer Program**, organized in 2001, is designed to educate and involve young men and women in police operations. In addition to gaining working knowledge of police work, the participants have the opportunity to serve their community, by assisting officers at various community events.

**The Easton Police D.A.R.E. Program** continues to grow in our elementary and middle schools under the direction of Officer Mark Pastor. Approximately 350 students are

presently involved in Drug Abuse Resistance Education, (D.A.R.E.). The program started in 1990 when only 65 students were registered. Officer Pastor is recognized as one of the leading D.A.R.E. Officers in the State of Connecticut.

**The School Resource Officer Program** was initiated through a Department of Justice Grant in July of 2005 under the *Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS)* which provides for an enhanced collaborative partnership between the Easton Police Department and the Easton School Community. Officer Mark Pastor was appointed to this position and continues to perform the duties of D.A.R.E. along with the additional duties of School Resource Officer. Those duties include the coordination of school security programs, school bus safety, investigations of all youth and juvenile matters, and developing positive youth and police relations. This officer is assigned to these duties on a daily basis.

The Easton Police Department has again been awarded several federal and state grants during this fiscal year. These grants included a Highway Safety Grant for DUI enforcement, Secure Our School Grant which provided thirty four (34) cameras to monitor the exterior of the Easton Schools, the Bulletproof Vest grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Program and Homeland Security funding. Through this funding, the department has advanced in technology and has provided our officers with modern and safe equipment to protect this community.

The department continues as a "First Responder" agency, certified by the State of Connecticut and the Office of Emergency Medical Services, (OEMS). All police patrol vehicles are equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators; all officers are trained and certified to administer early defibrillation in cases of cardiac arrest. This program continues through the cooperative efforts of the Easton Voluntary Emergency Medical Service, (EVEMS) and the Easton Police Department.

Once again, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the citizens of this community for their continuing support and cooperation, and also to the men and women of the Easton Police Department who work with pride and professionalism to make the Town of Easton a safe community.

John F. Solomon  
Chief of Police

**EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR END REPORT**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007**

<b><u>ENFORCEMENT</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>
MV Violations	1165	841	716
Parking Tickets	9	7	13
MV Warnings	1352	886	1001

**CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS**

ACO Arrests	27	27	25
Arson	0	1	0
Assault	4	7	3
Breach of Peace	4	3	5
Burglary	2	2	4
Criminal Mischief	1	2	1
Criminal Trespassing	4	7	11
Disorderly Conduct	14	9	12
Drugs	22	13	25
JV Referral	3	9	8
DWI	30	30	23
Larceny	6	3	3
Robbery	0	0	0
Sex Crimes/Rape	1	2	1
Stolen MV	1	1	0
Weapons Violation	0	0	0
Warrants	23	25	30
Other:	16	19	12
Enforcement/Violations Totals	2684	1894	1893

**EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007**

<b><u>COMPS &amp; Investigations</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>
Accidents	203	172	211
Aided Cases	294	350	286
Alarms	969	1062	1102
Animals	875	1008	1044
Arson	0	0	0
Assault	4	6	3
Assistance	570	561	612
Asst Other Dept	228	246	260
Bomb Threats	1	0	0
Burglary	11	11	11
Child Safety Restraint	67	60	41
Computer Crime	8	8	
Crim Mischief/Prop Dmg	65	62	40
C.M. Mailbox	82	97	90
Credit Card/Fraud	10		
Disabled M/V	222	257	257
Domestics	15	26	34
Fingerprints	265	203	217
Fires	149	141	108
Found Prop & Released	43	124	169
Other/General/Littering	49	106	107
Homicide	0	0	0
Juvenile Referrals	0	7	6
Larceny	23	23	19

Lost Property	50	50	52
M/V Found/Lost	0	10	0
M/V Impound	11	45	77
M/V Stolen	6	10	1
Missing Person/Fnd	11	17	11
Narcotics/Drugs	18	6	12
Noise Complaints	102	79	97
Phone Calls	38	52	86
Permits 27	36	36	
Record Check	72	75	70
Robbery	0	0	0
Select Enforcement	249	175	63
Sex Crimes	2	2	2
Soliciting	17	21	8
State Property	116	154	132
Subpoena	23	15	13
Suspicious Activity	110	45	
Suspicious M/V	377	366	349
Suspicious Person	92	97	144
Teletype	64	89	112
Threatening	5	3	
Town Property	258	345	296
Trespassing	5	6	7
Trucks	10	16	5
Utilities	577	737	566
Validation	13	8	12
Warrants/Arrests/Application	42	49	67
Youths	42	68	69
M/V Stops/Arrests	2303	1016	34
DWI	29	28	23
Liquor Law Viols	5	0	3
Supplement Rpts.	151		

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8978</b>	<b>8150</b>	<b>7034</b>
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**MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL**

Governed by State Statute, the Municipal Animal Control Department is under the authority of the Chief of Police, who is responsible for the supervision of the Animal Control Officer (ACO) and the daily operations of the department.

The Municipal Animal Control Officer, Kelly Fitch, is empowered by State Statute with the authority to conduct investigations concerning any laws relating to domestic animals, to arrest, issue written complaints and summons any person found in violation of the animal control laws. State Statute further empowers the Animal Control Officer to conduct a search for unlicensed dogs and to seize same (without warrant). Two part-time ACOs currently assist ACO Fitch.

The Town of Easton conducted a survey of unlicensed dogs again this year, in accordance with Section 22-349L of the Connecticut General Statutes. The need for the survey has been occasioned by two factors: an additional 10% rebate to the Town on collected fees and the lack of voluntary registrations. It should be pointed out that delaying licensing

*continued on next page*

results in arrest and a significant fine, in addition to the license fee requirement. **All licenses are renewable between June 1st and July 1st of each year.**

On November 3, 2005, the Board of Selectmen appointed a committee, “*The Animal Control Shelter Committee*”, to consider a new animal shelter for the Town of Easton. In 2007 a STEAP (*Small Town Economic Assistance Program*) Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 was awarded to the Easton Police Department by the State of Connecticut to assist in the construction of the new shelter.

I wish to thank all of our citizens who have helped with animals through their generous donations or time spent at the shelter. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.

JOHN F. SOLOMON  
Chief of Police

**DOG WARDEN REPORT**  
Fiscal Year July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Comps Investigated	877	1116	1055
Dogs Destroyed	3	6	6
Cats Destroyed	1	2	0
Dogs Redeemed	85	90	74
Cats Redeemed	0	0	0
Other	0	1	
Dogs Sold	19	23	10
Cats Sold	7	16	4
Dog Owner Arrests	26	30	25
Dog Bites	11	15	14
Cat Bites	0	1	2
Raccoon	0	1	
Phone Calls Received	2038	2570	2402
Notices to License	501	538	414

**THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

The Communications Center is under the direction of the Chief of Police who is responsible for the supervision of personnel and the daily operations of this department. The Communications Center operates seven (7) days a week and twenty-four (24) hours a day. All Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Service calls are received and dispatched from this department.

There are three (3) full-time civilian Dispatchers: Christopher Lazar, Gregory Ceraso and Diane Adiletta. There are also seven (7) part-time Dispatchers who cover shifts on the weekends, holidays, and for other emergencies. The Dispatchers are mandated by law to complete the State

of Connecticut Telecommunicator training along with additional training in the use of the Connecticut On Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing System (COLLECT) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer system.

The following services are provided by the Communications Center:

**ETP stickers** – this sticker, which is placed on the left rear bumper, is an excellent aid to Police Officers when responding to complaints. It makes the Officer aware that a vehicle is owned by an Easton resident. To obtain an ETP sticker, simply bring your vehicle registration to the Communications Center. If you are a new resident and your registration does not yet reflect your Easton address, please bring proof of residency with you.

**Vacant House Checks or VHCs** – when going away, feel free to stop by the Communications Center or call the main line and the Dispatcher will obtain emergency contact information from you. This will assist us if any problems arise in your absence. It is advisable that you call a few days in advance of your departure.

**New Residents** – If you are a new resident, moving within the state of Connecticut, you can save a trip to DMV by picking up a Change of Address for License and/or Registration card at the Communications Center. Remember that you **MUST** notify DMV of address changes within forty-eight (48) hours of moving. New Residents from out of state must appear at the DMV.

**Alarms** – emergency contact information can be updated by calling or stopping by the Communications Center. We recommend that all information be updated annually for current phone numbers and alarm codes. A reminder, that per Town Ordinance, all alarm systems shall be registered with the Police Department.

**RUOK** – The Easton Police Department’s Telephone Reassurance Program or RUOK, is a free service available to any resident over the age of 60, or to any resident who is disabled. You can sign up for the program by calling or stopping by the Communications Center.

**Data Alert** – This database alerts the Dispatcher to any disability that has been reported to the department for medical emergency response. When a call comes into the Dispatcher and your name or address is entered into the computer, the data alert will enable the dispatcher to immediately recognize medical disabilities that will save critical time in responding to the needs of those individuals. Please notify this department of any emergency medical information that you feel should be recorded in our **Data Alert System**. This information is kept confidential and used only for emergency response.

JOHN F. SOLOMON  
Chief of Police

## BOARD of FIRE COMMISSIONERS

A Town Ordinance in 1965 established the Board of Fire Commissioners. It is responsible for insuring that fire protection services are provided for residences of the town. The Commission works in close cooperation with the town's career firefighters, the Fire Marshal's office and the Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1, a separate non-town support corporation, which furnishes the volunteer manpower to assist the career firefighters in fire fighting.

The board meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the firehouse training room. Fire Marshal Peter Neary and Chief Doug Von Holtz along with some of their officers attend the meetings to keep the Commission abreast of the happenings and needs of the Fire Company and the Town.

The Commission and Fire Company were concerned with the decreasing number of volunteers available to respond to fires. During the day time many of the volunteers work out of town and not available to answer fire calls with our present dispatching system. All fire emergency calls **must go to 911**, not to the firehouse.

This past year the Commission spent considerable time interviewing many candidates to increase the career firefighting force from four to eight. The Town's eight career firefighters maintain 24 hour coverage of the firehouse, whereby there is always two career firefighters on duty to answer the alarms. All the new hires are required to attend the Connecticut State Fire Academy. Our dedicated career firefighters are Wayne Crossman, Michael Ohradan, James Wright, Dave Davies, Martin Ohradan, Alfred Doty, Michael Strehan and Michael Sabia.

Currently the Town owns four fire fighting vehicles. A concern of the Commission and the Fire Department is that as larger structures and taller homes are built will we have the proper equipment to fight fires if they occur in these larger/taller buildings. New subdivisions, building locations, lot landscaping, and driveway access must be a consideration to accommodate the fire trucks if the occasion arises where equipment must be brought in to fight a fire.

The Fire Company is in the process of forming a "New Apparatus Committee", to aid the Commission in purchasing new replacement fire apparatus in the future. It takes up to a year to receive delivery of new equipment.

The Fire Department continues the dry hydrant installation program. Installations are made at ponds or with water storage tanks buried in the ground at new subdivisions in areas of the Town not supported with a public water supply. A new dry hydrant was recently installed in a pond on Sport Hill Road just north of Wimbledon Lane.

Home Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors are the best defense against injury or death due to fire. The

National Fire Protection Association studies show that 90% of the deaths occur in homes that had no smoke or monoxide alarms. The Fire Commission, Fire Department and Fire Marshal highly recommend all dwellings have these alarms, and they are properly maintained and tested yearly. Another recommendation is that each home be equipped with an ABC class portable fire extinguisher and that it be kept in a handy spot.

The Commission would like to thank the officers and members of the Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1 and the Fire Marshals of the Town. Each year these volunteers, as a team, spend thousands of hours "on call" in our Town. This plus the countless hours of drills, training and maintaining equipment, can only be classified as the work of a group of "highly motivated and dedicated people".

Respectfully submitted,  
George A. Beno Chairman  
Ralph Altieri  
Anthony Colonnese  
Theresa Connell  
Robert Monda

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Easton is provided fire protection by two agencies, the Easton Fire Department, and the Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1. These agencies operate while responding to calls and training as one cohesive unit. The Elected Chiefs of the Volunteer Fire Company are the Chiefs of both agencies.

The Easton Volunteer Fire Company #1 was established in November of 1921 and has continuously provided fire protection to the Town of Easton ever since. Currently there are 40 active firefighters serving in the Fire Company. These volunteers come from a wide cross-section of Easton's diverse community. They are Lawyers, General Contractors, Aircraft Mechanics, Architects, etc. These men and woman spend countless hours training for and responding to the wide variety of calls for help. The elected line officers in 2007 were Chief Doug von Holtz, 1st Assistant Chief Jim Girardi, and 2nd Assistant Chief Eric Resko. The executive officers in 2007 were President Gerry Mulligan, Vice President Steve Waugh, Secretary Lucy Crossman, and Treasurer James Wright.

The Easton Fire Department was created in 1947. At first there was only one career firefighter who would work the daytime hours during the week. During the 1950's two more firefighters were added to the rolls of the Fire Department. In 1968 the fourth a position was added to the roster. In 2007 the first change in 39 years took place. During contract negotiations Local 1426 asked for four additional Firefighters, the Town agreed to the need and sent four Recruit Firefighters to the Connecticut State Fire Academy. Upon graduation the four Recruit Firefighters joined Easton's Fire Fighting Force

as Probationary Career Firefighters. A firefighter works 24 straight hours and then has 72 hours off. This provides staffing in the Fire House 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Many times during the work week, due to Easton being a bedroom community, the "on-duty" firefighters are the only ones responding to calls. The career firefighters perform the crucial task of maintaining the Town's firefighting equipment. The Town's current career fighters are Wayne Crossman, James Wright, Michael Ohradan, and David Davies. The Probationary Firefighters are Al Doty, Martin Ohradan, Michael Sabia, and Michael Strehan.

The 2007 calendar year was one of our busiest years. The Department responded to 377 calls during the year. The calls types varied greatly. A breakdown of the most frequent types of calls is as follows: 90 alarm activations, 43 lock-outs, 37 vehicle accidents. We also responded to a variety of hazardous material releases and 42 Public Assistance calls due to the flooding last Spring. All told the Department personnel expended over 2,000 person hours responding to calls for help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Easton for their continued support of both agencies, and the Volunteer and Career Firefighters for their countless hours of dedicated service to the town.

Respectfully submitted  
Chief Douglas von Holtz

## **EASTON VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE**

Members of the EMS Commission are Mr. Robert Adriani, Chairman, Mrs. Gloria Bindelglass, Mr. William Chiarenzelli, Dr. James Spak, and Mrs. Adele O'Kane. The Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at EMS Headquarters and if a holiday, on Thursday. The Commission's responsibility is to oversee the Town budget for the EMS services, the activities of the full and part time EMS staff, the maintenance and management of the EMS Headquarters and equipment and serve as a liaison between the Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service and the Town of Easton. Also, the Commission acts in an advisory capacity to any matters presented by the EMS Service of the Town of Easton.

The Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Service consists of 39 volunteers, including college students, who participate when they are available. Officers and Directors are Mrs. Marge Smith, President and Chief of the Department, Police Sergeant Jonathan Arnold, Vice President and Assistant Chief/Operations, Ms. Victoria Sinnicki, Secretary, Mr. John Smith, Treasurer, Mrs. Carolyn Kearney, Director of Training, Mrs. Midge Olschan and Mrs. Patty Kusovitsky co-Directors

of Personnel, Mr. Dave Kmetz, Director of Vehicle and Building Maintenance, Mr. Victor Malendretos, Director of Communications, Ms. Ann Slimak, Director of Scheduling, and Ms. Sarah Olschan, Director of Public Relations. Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Arnold receive a stipend from the town for their work leading the service. Chief Smith attends monthly meetings of the Southwest Emergency Medical Council on behalf of the Town of Easton to stay abreast of regional and statewide EMS issues and recommendations. She then reports this to the Easton EMS Commission at their monthly meetings. Also, throughout the year, Mrs. Smith attends other meetings in Easton and surrounding towns as they relate to the emergency medical service. Many homeland security meetings continue to be conducted on local, regional and state levels which were attended by both Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Arnold, as well as Tri-Town Meetings with Easton, Monroe and Trumbull. Mr. William Chiarenzelli represents the Town of Easton on the Board of Directors of the Emergency Medical Communications Center (C-Med), thereby insuring the town's concerns are presented at these meetings. C-Med facilitates communications between our ambulance and area hospitals and between area ambulances as needed.

There were 387 total calls plus the standbys noted below for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. A breakdown of call types indicate: 131 trauma; 199 medical; 52 under age 18; 7 medical mutual aid calls to other towns (Stratford 4, Trumbull 2); 25 Miscellaneous (such as lift assist, patient standby waiting for commercial service to take patient to an out-of-area hospital); 21 cancellations enroute and 43 rolled to a commercial service. In addition to this, there were 22 standbys: 1 fire standby, 1 Halloween bonfire; 1 DARE Race; 1 Memorial Day Parade ; 1 Touch-a-Truck; 1 Barlow Football Game; 5 nights for Firemen's Carnival, 5 bicycle tours and 6 twelve-hour shifts for the Reservation Road movie production. During the year, there are also times when we are called upon to standby for other major town events.

The Easton EMS, with EMS Commission and Board of Finance approval, initiated the necessary paperwork to move the service to at least a part-time paramedic service. This was thwarted by the State of Connecticut Office of Emergency Medical Service because we must provide the upgrade to a paramedic service on a 24 hour -7 day basis only. For the time being, we continue our basic emergency medical service supplemented by paramedic intercepts as needed. As a result of this decision, two EMTs were hired on a full-time basis to work the 7:00 am to 3:00 pm shift supplemented by two additional per diem EMTs working the 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and then followed by our volunteer schedule for 6:00 pm to 6:00 am. The two full-time EMTs are John Snyder and Andrew Rosenthal. The one hour 6:00 am to 7:00 am is covered by agreement with Nelson Ambulance Service who is our designated paramedic intercept service.

At any time during daytime weekday hours, Easton residents may stop by to have a blood pressure reading at no cost. Additionally, Easton EMTs cover vacation, illness, etc., with per diem personnel, as necessary, plus after the work-hours

from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, night and 24-hour/day weekend calls. In the event of multiple calls or occasional non-availability of volunteers, an agreement is in place for backup by Nelson paramedic ambulance, as well as, area towns for mutual aid.

The Easton Police Department officers continue to be "First Responders" to all emergency medical calls. They are fully trained and equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators and other primary resuscitative equipment. Our First Responders and Easton EMS meet recommended Office of Emergency Medical Service response time requirements established by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health.

The billing for Easton ambulance service for the fiscal period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 is: billed \$146,449; income collected \$91,700. An amount in the area of \$60,000 is still pending and being sought. This, however, includes certain dis-allowances and definite unrecoverables. Our overall collection rate was 72%, which is on the high side considering a collection rate of 55% is considered good. Monies collected go into the general fund.

Without requesting town funds, EVEMS continues to work toward acquiring a new EMS Headquarters wherein we will better meet the needs of a growing and demanding town, enhance EMT professionalism, provide better incentive and establish a more suitable environment to retain and recruit volunteers. A new EMT facility will allow us to stay overnight at headquarters, and, thus, speed EMS response to after hours and holiday emergencies. It will also put us in a position to offer meaningful medical-related programs to the Easton community. We continue our fund raising efforts toward this goal and wish to thank all who so kindly support us. The acquisition of a suitable building is a top priority for EVEMS and continues as our number one goal. Without question, success with these efforts will be of significant benefit to the EVEMS and the Town of Easton.

Respiratory evaluations and fit testing for high efficiency filter masks continue on an annual basis so that Easton EMS is prepared to respond to a bio-hazard incident and EMTs will be protected while taking care of and transporting patients. Cross training on extrication of accident victims continues each year with the Fire Department. Also, other related OSHA training mandates are done each year.

The Easton Volunteer Emergency Medical Services honored Carolyn Kearney with the "Easton EMT of the Year Award for 2007." This award was established to honor Herb Goldman who served Easton for 7 years before his death untimely on January 22, 2002.

Carolyn has been a member of EVEMS for 5 years, is our Director of Training and the Samuel Staples School nurse which from our viewpoint is well received by our smaller patients. We deeply appreciate all she does for us.

EVEMS has participated in various community educational projects as well as providing on site support when necessary. For example, EVEMS shares the requirement for ambulance

standby at Joel Barlow High School Football games with Redding. EVEMS participates in the annual Joel Barlow High School MADD presentation and supports a high school EMT Class. Our EMS facility is open to visitation by community organizations such as the Cub Scouts, Brownies, and other groups like the Boy/Girl Scouts. Visits are scheduled by calling EMS headquarters. Joel Barlow High School and the Scouts are allowed to use our facility for car washes to raise funds. The Easton Garden Club reserves the garages each year for their plant sale in the event of rain. EVEMS supports the DARE Program in Easton's schools, as well as, the Easton Police Explorer Post. EVEMS also supports the Fire Department on standby for fires and specific training events where it is prudent to have medical rescue personnel nearby.

The EVEMS, with help from physician members of the EMS Commission and the nurses in our service, assisted emergency services in town with hepatitis vaccination, annual TB skin testing, respiratory screening and other OSHA-mandated worker safety compliance programs.

We encourage Easton residents to call our headquarters to inquire about EMT and CPR courses and/or visit our website at [www.eastonems.com](http://www.eastonems.com). We run an annual EMT class whereby we look forward to more Easton residents joining our service.

Robert Adriani  
Chairman, EMS Commission

Marge Smith, EMT-D  
Chief, EVEMS

## ***PUBLIC LIBRARY***

### **EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

After celebrating its tenth anniversary in its new building, during FY 2006-2007, the Library focused on examining its mission, collections, and services. While conducting this internal evaluation, the Library continued to strive to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of its users.

"The mission of the Easton Public Library is to help people of all ages lead richer, more interesting lives by providing access to books and other cultural resources."

With this credo in mind, the Library began its year of assessment by looking at its print collections. After ten years of occupancy, a major inventory of print and audio-visual materials was conducted. Statistics tracking the circulation of items were examined. From the information gathered, the decision was made to focus purchasing power on all types of children's material and popular adult materials, such as, best sellers, current periodicals, large print books, audio books and DVDs. Abridged audio books and videocassettes were removed from the collection in accordance with the study

conducted. Many volumes in the reference collections were converted to circulating items or not updated, reflecting the number of research materials now available on-line. With media formats continually changing, the Library must be poised to make adjustments in how it develops its collections and how it spends its dollars.

The self-study confirmed the Library's belief that children's service is a major force behind Library activity. Weekly story hours for audience members from babies through five years old are well attended and often over-subscribed. Regular visits from and to local nursery schools enhance service to the Town's pre-school population. Cooperative programs and resource sharing, with Samuel Staples Elementary School and Helen Keller Middle School, reach out to elementary and middle school students. The annual summer reading program, the chess and anime clubs, the youth advisory board, and the special music, film and arts and crafts programs, arranged and/or conducted by the children's librarians, enrich the lives of Easton's young citizens.

Continuing the review of service, the Library Director and Board of Trustees looked closely at the Library's Follett automated circulation system. A school based system, Follett was not meeting the needs of public library constituents. Lacking the funds necessary to contract a public library automation vendor and after examining technological options, the Library joined Bibliomation. Bibliomation is a consortium that provides and manages an automated circulation system and on-line public access catalogs to its 47 member libraries. With seed money from the Friends of the Library and private funds, the Library took its first step on the road to migrating from Follett to Bibliomation in spring 2007. The system was fully operational on July 7, 2007.

On-line resources are particularly popular with the Library's adult and middle and high school patrons. The Library subscribes to iConn, an on-line State Library service, offering Easton's citizens a gateway to several databases. iConn resources cover a myriad of topics: arts, sciences, business, literature, medicine and technology. In addition, iConn provides access to full text periodical and newspaper articles. Patrons can research heady subjects or check baseball stats from any remote location by keying in their library card number. Further investigation resulted in the Library's joining InfoAnytime, a real-time, web-based reference service. A visit to the Library's web page will connect Library patrons to InfoAnytime reference services where real live librarians are available 24/7 to help users retrieve needed information. These value added services extend the reach of the Library to the whole community.

While information is readily available on the web, Library patrons come to the Library for more complicated searches, in need of help navigating the information maze. With an estimated 190,000 books published each year in the United States, patrons also often come to the Library for help choosing a "good" book. The popularity of book clubs inspired the

Library to create a special "book discussion group" collection of multiple titles. To reduce the cost of this collection, the Library gleaned titles from book donations made to the Library. In keeping with this trend, the Library's third year of monthly "Beyond Reading" book discussions was a success. Group members relish coming together to share opinions and ideas. Their exchange fosters critical thinking and adds depth to each individual's reading experience.

The Friends of the Library is a mainstay in the Library's life. In FY 2006-2007, the Friends added a car show to their regular calendar of events. With the aid of Parks and Recreation staff, The Roads Scholar Classic, Custom & Cool Car Show brought car lovers to Pond Field to view fifty beautiful automobiles. The Friends hosted book signings for four local authors, Elise Broach, Patricia Hubbell, Stacey Maxwell and James Prosek. Dedicated to the mission of the Library, the Friends raise funds, host programs, and add to the Library's print and non-print resources. Their efforts strengthen the sense of community by bringing townspeople together.

The Library's Community Room is used by a host of Town agencies and organizations for meetings, lectures, music programs and art exhibits. The Library's Conference Room is enlivened by original art throughout the year. Hence, Easton residents often find themselves "at the Library" even if they are not "looking for a book". This phenomenon underlines the importance of the Library as a community focal point and cultural center.

The Easton Public Library is a place that brings people and information together both physically and virtually. The Library wishes to thank all those who have supported its efforts to help the citizens of Easton lead richer, more interesting lives as they take their places in the 21st century's global society.

***Remember-Find It At Your Library! [www.eastonlibrary.org](http://www.eastonlibrary.org)***

FY 2006-2007 Statistics

Circulation: 130,904

Registered Borrowers: 5,924

Total Materials: 55,838

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Baldino  
Library Director

# **EDUCATION**

## **EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Town of Easton is served by Samuel Staples Elementary School, Helen Keller Middle School, and Joel Barlow High School. The Easton Board of Education is responsible for the elementary and middle schools, while the high school is under the purview of the Region #9 Board of Education. The three autonomous boards of education of Easton, Redding, and Region 9 (ER9) share a superintendent, an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and a director of finance and operations. Dr. Allen Fossbender is the superintendent of the three school districts; he was previously the principal of Joel Barlow High School and the assistant superintendent of Region 9. E. Marie Mas is the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction; Margaret Sullivan is the director of finance and operations.

Easton's school enrollment continues to grow. As of October 1, 2006, Samuel Staples (K-5) student enrollment was 781, and Helen Keller Middle School (6-8) student enrollment was 368.

The Easton Board of Education provides funding for curriculum development, particularly summer curriculum work in the areas of integrated language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, guidance, health, world languages, information technology and physical education. The assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction works closely with language arts, mathematics, social studies and science teachers in the development of formative and summative assessments to measure student achievement in relation to the academic standards of the Connecticut State Department of Education. The Easton School District's Technology Plan identifies funding to ensure that all students become competent in the use of technology. The district continues to improve student achievement as measured by the mandated Connecticut Mastery Tests and the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests.

Professional development for teachers continues to focus on the alignment and implementation of various curricula, the integration of technology into curricula and instruction, and differentiated instruction. Instructional and assessment practices that assist teachers in working with students who have special needs are also being modified. The school district's overall standards-based curriculum requires each student to perform academically at a proficient level.

The Easton School District is a member of the Tri-State Consortium, which includes high-performing school districts in Fairfield County, Long Island, and the Greater Westchester Area. Many Easton administrators and teachers have received training in the Tri-State School Evaluation Protocol and have participated in the evaluation of Tri-State Schools. The school district uses Tri-State criteria to formulate school-based goals.

The district continues to participate in the Open Choice Program to meet the state mandate to reduce racial isolation. One child from the Bridgeport School District was enrolled at Helen Keller Middle School and five children were enrolled at Samuel Staples Elementary School during the 2006-2007 school year.

The taxpayers of Easton approved a 2006-2007 budget of \$13,032,432 for the Easton School District.

The members of the 2006-2007 Easton Board of Education were John Allan, Glenn Maiorano, Dr. Alan Katz, Dr. Daniel Underberger, Dr. Elin Cohen, and Al Treidel.

For more information about Easton Public Schools, please visit the ER9 Central Office Web site at [www.er9.org](http://www.er9.org), the Samuel Staples Elementary School Web site at [www.er9org/sses](http://www.er9org/sses), and the Helen Keller Middle School Web site at [www.er9.org/hkms](http://www.er9.org/hkms).

## **REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #9**

Joel Barlow High School is under the purview of the Region 9 Board of Education; it is located at 100 Black Rock Turnpike (Route 58) in Redding. As of October 1, 2006, the school had a population of 970 students in grades nine through twelve.

Of the 96 high school faculty members, 4 have doctorates, 41 have Sixth-Year Certificates, 42 have Master's Degrees, and 9 have Bachelor's Degrees. The school's picturesque campus of 113 acres accommodates 26 varsity and 11 junior varsity sport teams. The school's unique Student Activity Program sponsors 57 extracurricular and co-curricular activities during and after school hours.

Joel Barlow High School has received many state and national awards for exemplary curriculum and instruction and for overall excellence in education. It has been identified twice by the United States Department of Education as a School of Excellence. Its Advanced Placement Program has been commended by the Connecticut State Department of Education and the *Washington Post*. The College Board uses the school's rubric for its Junior Writing Portfolio as a national model. The Connecticut School Counselor Association selected the Easton/Redding/Joel Barlow High School Guidance Curriculum to receive its Outstanding Guidance and Counseling Program Award. In addition, the school received in 2006-2007 awards from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education for its program of studies and the parent-guardian student handbook. In recognition of its overall academic excellence, Joel Barlow High School was one of a few select schools whose curricula and data-based improvement processes were recognized by the State Board of Education.

The high school has ranked consistently among the top schools in the state for student performance on the mandated Connecticut Academic Performance Test. Student performance on the SAT, SAT II, and Advanced Placement Examinations have been noteworthy. In 2006-2007, 99 percent of seniors took the SAT I. Students achieved a mean score of 561 out of a possible score of 800 in writing, 558 in mathematics, and 556 in reading. Nine students were commended for exceptional performance on the PSAT by the National Merit Scholarship Program. In 2007, 157 students took a total of 264 Advanced Placement Examinations in 20 advanced placement subjects. Eighty-eight percent of the students achieved a grade of three or higher in the examinations. Ninety-four percent of the Class of 2007 planned to attend postsecondary institutions. Although the vast majority of Joel Barlow graduates proceed to college, the spectrum of courses offered at the school is designed to meet the needs of all students, including those students who pursue postsecondary vocational training.

A large-scale, complex building project was completed in 2006. It has yielded many improvements to the school building, playing fields, and related facilities. The project has resulted in the construction of a large addition of 26 classrooms, including science classrooms/laboratories, and the renovation of existing classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, administrative and guidance offices, Commons Area, and parking lots. New laboratories have been built for world languages, mathematics/science, humanities, business education, graphics, Cisco Networking, and multi-media/multi-material fabrication. Site improvements include the construction of a new competition field, new multipurpose fields, new cross-country course, and eight new tennis courts.

The taxpayers of Easton and Redding approved a 2006-2007 budget of \$17,736,560 for Joel Barlow High School/Regional School District No. 9.

The members of the 2006-2007 Region 9 Board of Education were Cathy Gombos, Judy Shapiro, Paul Coppinger, Julia Pemberton, Arthur Poltrack, Huntley Stone, Mark Lewis and Peter Bonfanti.

For more information about Joel Barlow High School, please visit the ER9 Central Office Web site at [www.er9.org](http://www.er9.org) and the high school's Web site at [www.er9.org/jbhs](http://www.er9.org/jbhs).

## DEBT SERVICE AND BENEFITS ACCOUNTS

Debt Service and Benefits Account  
 Selectmen's Budget for the Board of Education  
 Fiscal year July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

### IN KIND SERVICES:

PENSION	
TOWN'S CONTRIBUTION FOR EMPLOYEES	\$100,000
ACTUARY FEES	
1/2 ANNUAL FEE	\$4,500
CHECK WRITING/REFUNDS/MISC.	\$2,635
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$0
EASTON FIRE DISTRICT	
Tax	\$2,499
INSURANCE	
GENERAL LIABILITY	\$45,350
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$47,402
DEBT SERVICE	
PRINCIPAL	\$973,500
INTEREST	\$408,462
NEW DEBT INTEREST	\$816,450
NEW DEBT PRINCIPAL	\$1,105,000
PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES	
MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS-LABOR COST	
Helen Keller & Samuel Staples Schools	\$6,945
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SERVICES	
PLOWING	\$640
SAND & SALT	\$2,100
SWEEPING	\$810
OTHER NECESSARY REPAIRS	\$6,521
PERSONNEL WAGES PROVIDED FOR 515 MOREHOUSE ROAD	\$74,567
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,597,381

**PROBATE COURT  
DISTRICT OF TRUMBULL**

The Trumbull Probate Court was established by State Statute and commenced operations on January 2, 1959. The Towns of Easton, Monroe and Trumbull are served through this Court. Prior to 1959, the public was served by the Bridgeport Probate Court.

The primary jurisdiction of the Court is to effect the probating of wills and settling of estates and trusts, the appointment of guardians for minors and the mentally retarded, commitments of the mentally ill, conservators for incompetent persons, adoptions and changes of names.

During the period of July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, The Trumbull Probate Court processed 1008 new estates. The new estates included the following:

Estates with Wills	172
Estates without Wills	34
Estate Sales of Real Estate	26
Compromise of Claims	4
Allowance of Final Accounts	172
Other Applications or Petitions	19
Small Estate Affidavits	83
Estates for Tax Purposes Only	71
State Aid 4a-16 Estates	33
Under the Category of Children’s Matters:	
Adoptions, Termination of Parental Rights, Emancipations, Temporary Guardianship & Dispositional Hearing	65
Under the Category of Guardians:	
Appointment of Guardians of the Estate	13
Compromise of Claims	7
Allowance of Accounts	10
Guardianships of the Mentally Retarded	19
Under the Category of Conservators:	
Conservator of Estate/Person	39
Sales of Real Estate	6
Allowance of Accounts	28
Other Applications	17
Under Miscellaneous	
Trust Applications and Accounts Requiring Hearings	44
Name Changes	28

The Honorable John P. Chiota is Judge of Probate: Clerk is Elizabeth S. Frassinelli, Assistant Clerks are Gail J. Hanna and Lisa A. Sinise.

The Court is located in the Trumbull Town Hall and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

**EASTON HEALTH AND RESPITE  
CONNECTION, INC. 2007**

Insurance and Medicare do not pay to hire someone to watch a loved one, such as a parent or spouse with Alzheimer’s, while the caregiver goes to the market, their own doctor’s appointment or just needs a break. The Easton Health and Respite Connection, Inc., contracts with Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut to provide the necessary services.

The Easton HRC, Inc., a volunteer, non-profit, community oriented organization, hopes to improve the quality of care and the quality of life of the residents in the Easton community. Families will contract directly with Visiting Nurse Services, who in turn will provide a free assessment in the home by a Registered Nurse, to determine the appropriate level of care required; skilled nursing, sleep-in, or home health aide. Easton HRC will reimburse VNS directly for the care that is ultimately provided. Eligible families will be able to receive up to \$500 of services from Partners In Care, a branch of VNS, each year.

This endeavor was initiated in January of 2006 and has been utilized by four Easton families. The \$500 allotted per family will provide approximately 24 hours of respite care relief. We hope to increase the dollar amount and number of families that we can help.

The Easton Health and Respite Connection will continue to provide a “Loan Closet” in the Senior Center with wheelchairs, commodes, crutches, walkers and other medical supplies for Easton residents to borrow free of charge. We have purchased three new wheelchairs, as they are in high demand.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Butler  
Co-President  
Easton Health and Respite Connection, Inc.

**SUMMARIES OF TOWN MEETINGS**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 30, 2007; 8.00PM  
SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Notice  
Annual Town Meeting - April 30, 2007**

Warning is hereby given of the Annual Town Meeting to be held within and for the Town of Easton on Monday, April 30, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School, Morehouse Road, Easton, to discuss and act upon the following:

1. Acceptance of the 2006 Annual Town Report.
2. Discussion of proposed annual Town budget of \$37,802,702 for fiscal year 2007-2008 as recommended by the Board of Finance. NOTE: The Town meeting may act to reduce, but not increase, the proposed annual Town budget.

3. Five-year capital project plan.
4. Set July 1, 2007 and January 2, 2008 for the 2006 grand list bills.
5. Programs to be included on a list of programs eligible for investment by business firms under the provisions of the R.E. VanNordstrand Neighborhood Assistance Act. The list approved shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Services.
6. Acceptance of the following Conservation Easements:
  1. 11 Sturbridge Road as recorded in Volume 597, Page 184-186;
  2. Lot #7 on Tatetuck Trail as recorded in Volume 589, Page 110;
  3. 80 Maple Road as recorded in Volume 568, Page 269-272;
  4. 88 Beers Road as recorded in Volume 587, Page 52;
  5. 63 Wyldewood Road as recorded in Volume 591, Page 205; and
  6. 155 Westport Road as recorded in Volume 605, Page 180.
7. Acceptance of open space located off Morehouse Road known as J&J Manor.
8. Approval of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.
9. Possible approval of a land transfer, 40 Bradley Road, from Easton to Weston.
10. Discussion of and resolution to endorse the Greater Bridgeport Planning Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan published December 2006.
11. Adjournment of the Town meeting to a machine vote to be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Samuel Staples Elementary School to vote on the annual budget for 2007-2008 of \$37,802,702 or such lower amount as may be approved by the Town meeting.

Per Order of the Board of Selectmen  
 Dated at Easton, Connecticut, this 19, day of April 2007  
 William J. Kupinse, Jr., First Selectman  
 Robert H. Lessler, Selectman

Present:  
 William J. Kupinse, Jr., First Selectman  
 Scott S. Centrella, Selectman  
 Robert H. Lessler, Selectman – later in the evening  
 W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk  
 Andrew R. Kachele, Chairman of the Board of Finance  
 Dr. Allen Fossbender, Superintendent of Schools  
 Robert E. Maquat, Chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission  
 Members of the Boards of Education

Public – about 100 people  
 The meeting was called to order by the First Selectman at 8.05pm.

The First Selectman called for nominations for a Moderator. Val Buckley nominated and Andy Kachele seconded the nomination of William J Kupinse Jr. as moderator. The nomination was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Town Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting. The moderator moved to the first agenda item.

**Agenda Item #1.** A motion was proposed and seconded to accept the Annual Town Report and passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Agenda Item #2. Annual Town Budget.**  
 Andrew Kachele Chairman of the Board of Finance addressed the meeting. Overall the budget is up 6%

He noted that the town wide revaluation complicated budget issues this year. The revaluation affects both real estate and personal property. Because of the revaluation the mill rate will decline from 26.57 to 21.00 in the proposed budget. The average revaluation increase is 37%. The individual homeowner must calculate the taxes due based on the new valuation and the new mill rate. It is important to look at the overall tax liability including real estate, automobiles and other personal property.

The second complication comes from Easton's population increase relative to Redding. This affects Easton's share of the Region 9 budget and Special Appropriation. Although the Region 9 budget is increased by 9%, Easton's share is increased by 12% and Redding's share is increased by 6%.

Val Buckley noted that the reported large increase in the senior Center budget was misleading. It was in the budget as seed money for a State Grant. If the grant was received it would cover the cost. If it was not received then the money would not be spent. In either case there would be no cost to the town.

June Logie asked if the \$1,000,000 Special Appropriation would be bonded over 20 years. Cathy Gombos, member of the Region 9 Board, said that had not yet been decided.

Roger Wollen noted that he would be voting against the budget because his tax bill was increasing by 10% even though his reassessment was +38%, close to the 37% average. Since the average tax increase is 6% he believes his increase should be close to the average.

Gowan Dacey noted that about two weeks previously at a Board of Finance meeting Andrew Kachele had said that the \$1,000,000 finance proposal was imprudent.

Andrew Kachele confirmed he was still of that opinion noting that it was poor policy to pay for current consumption with long term financing.

There was some discussion about a decrease of \$30,000 for the Animal Shelter. Andrew Kachele noted that it was seed money last year for State funding of the Animal Shelter grant and it was not needed this year.

Amy McKeon commented on the rescheduling of the Town Clerk's extra office hours for Absentee voting. She noted that the town needs to support the extra hours so that people who are out of town can vote.

A question was asked if Andrew Kachele was in support of the Region 9 \$1,000,000 request but against the method of financing. Andrew Kachele responded that it was a Region 9 issue and had nothing to do with the Easton Board of Finance.

Paul Coppinger noted that \$600,000 was to fix a leaky roof; the tracks had not been resurfaced since 1988 and the fields were in need of long term replacement. A plan was necessary for these facilities.

The Moderator noted that Region 9's budget was not on the agenda and referred the meeting back to the agenda.

Further discussion of Absentee voting hours followed.

Ted Meyer noted that his son was not back in town by 9pm and longer hours, or Saturday hours were required. He thought the town should support longer hours.

The Town Clerk noted that there are no funds to pay for extra office hours. In the past he had done it on a voluntary basis but could not this time because of a family commitment. All of the Assistants are union members and have to be paid and there are no funds to pay them.

Bud Jennings offered payment from CRG.

WJK explained that any donation would have to be made to the town and be paid into the General Fund. Then somebody would have to make a special appropriation to cover the expense. Since only one special appropriation is permitted each year, without going to a town meeting, it did not make sense to appropriate \$200 and foreclose any further options.

Andrew Kachele said Town Clerk would have to request a special appropriation at the next board of Finance meeting.

Lucy Crossman said the money should be put in next year's budget.

Roger Wollen said do it and ignore the rules.

The Moderator explained the rules and noted that they have to be followed.

Grant Monserratt asked if the proposed town budget included Region 9 and how much that had been value engineered out in previous year's has now been put back in.

Cathy Gombos – nothing has been added back.

Gowan Dacey if we commit to this how much more is required next year for the proposed new stadium.

Cathy Gombos – without the master plan of development we do not know.

Allen Fossbender, we need to know how much the parent group, Falcon Pride will donate.

He noted that a sudden increase in popularity of Lacrosse and decrease in interest in baseball has put pressure on the fields. Also a switch to turf fields for safety reasons is affecting use.

The Moderator hearing no further comments moved to the next agenda item.

### **Agenda Item #3 - 5 Year Capital Plan**

Andrew Kachele noted that the plan is required but not binding. A motion to accept was proposed and seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Set dates for grand list bills**

Proposed, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote

### **Agenda Item #5**

The Moderator reported no requests or applications and so no action required.

### **Agenda Item #6**

Proposed, seconded and accepted by unanimous voice vote

### **Agenda Item #7**

Proposed, seconded and accepted by unanimous voice vote

### **Agenda Item #8 – Town Plan of Conservation and Development**

John Hayes described the plan

Ted Meyer commented he was pleased that the Village Districts were dropped.

Andrew Kachele asked for confirmation that no commercial development was proposed. He noted that P&Z did not have to get town approval and although this board had a good record, future boards may not.

Bob Maquat said no commercial development

Roger Wollen said the Morehouse property was bought by the town. He noted that the plan called for recreational and educational use. That was not the sole reason for purchase. They may want to put the new animal shelter there.

Bob Maquat said these were envisaged as the primary use. Other use was still possible.

William J Kupinse noted that the plan had been on the website for some time. The Board of Selectmen had reviewed it and recommended technical changes which had been made,

Acceptance was proposed, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Agenda Item #9**

Background: A family bought a plot of land on the Easton Weston border and built a home. Although the land is in Easton it can only be reached from Weston roads. All of the surrounding

homes are in Weston. The owner has requested that the house be transferred to Weston because all of the neighborhood children go to Weston Schools and because of the long response time of emergency services. Because of the need to go through Weston it takes 11 minutes to reach the property. A number of people expressed opinions on both sides of the issue.

June Logie: What does Easton get if it agrees to the transfer?

Gowan Dacey: The field card says it is about 4 acres at the end of a dead end street. Easton gets \$4,000 annual taxes for providing no services. Why should it give up the revenue flow?

Weston prices are 50% higher than Easton. The owner will make an immediate profit if this is approved.

A house would be worth more than \$1,000,000 and generate \$14,000 taxes. Enough to pay for schools. Why give it up for intangible benefits that may never be realized?

Lucy Crossman: Fire Company Volunteer. It is difficult to provide emergency services and Easton should approve the transfer.

Roger Wollen: Give it to Weston out of consideration for the family and difficulty of providing services.

Owner: His interest is family safety and children's schools. He is 3 minutes from Weston firehouse. Easton Board of Education estimates it would cost \$36,000 to provide a bus to school from this location.

Many people spoke to the fact that the owner knew of these issues when he bought the property and built the house.

Bud Jennings: There is another 7.4 acres in the parcel. When this is developed will we have the same problem?

William J Kupinse, Jr.: Yes

Bud Jennings: Do other towns reciprocate and respond if they are nearer?

Andrew Kachele: Lives on a street with the same problem and Easton always responds.

William J Kupinse, Jr.: If we approve Weston must agree and then the State must act. Approving this motion would enable the town to proceed.

June Logie: In her experience the closest town responds first. Lots of other towns and properties have the same problem. Andrew Kachele asked what it would cost if approved the transfer.

The moderator said costs would include a survey and legal fees. Andrew Kachele suggested any transfer be at no cost to Easton.

A motion to this effect was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ted Meyer: This will change the town line. There are many properties in a similar condition that would want the same thing.

Dolly Curtis: The Scott's died awaiting a decision. They had lived in Easton for many years and suddenly the boundary was moved to put them in Monroe. Despite this we did nothing to help them. This would set an unacceptable precedent.

Others: Several others noted they had the same problem and emergency services took 15 minutes to reach them.

Cathy Gombos: the \$36,000 estimate is for an entire bus. The route would be adjusted to pickup other children. This is not the cost associated with this one home. We need to get some real numbers.

Dori Wollen: maybe the parents could pay to send the children to Weston schools.

The moderator called a vote.

First on the amendment that would make any transfer cost free to Easton. This passed unanimously by voice vote.

Second he called the motion to move the property to Weston. The voice vote was too close to call and the moderator requested a show of hands. The motion failed by 42 votes to 25.

#### **Agenda Item #10**

Acceptance was proposed, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### **Agenda Item #11**

Acceptance was proposed, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10.25pm.

### **MACHINE VOTE QUESTIONS Town of Easton May 8, 2007**

#### **Question 1:**

Shall the Town of Easton appropriate the sum of THIRTY SEVEN MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWO THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWO DOLLARS (\$37,802,702) for the Annual Town Budget, for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008? (This includes Easton's share of the Region No. 9 budget).

#### **Question 2:**

Shall the Regional School District No. 9, comprised of the Towns of Easton and Redding, appropriate and authorize the expenditure of NINETEEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTYONE THOUSAND, AND NINETY DOLLARS (\$19,331,090) as the operating budget of the district for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008? (Easton's share is \$8,708,656 and Redding's share is \$10,622,434).

**Question 3:**

Shall Regional School District No. 9, comprised of the Towns of Easton and Redding, appropriate up to ONE MILLION DOLLARS \$1,000,000), (Easton’s share currently equal to 45.05% or up to \$450,500; and Redding’s share currently equal to 54.95% or up to \$549,500), for items such as roof resurfacing, development of master plan for fields and facilities, resurfacing of track, replacement of theatre curtain, replacement of theatre lighting, and replacement of rooftop heating and ventilation units for Joel Barlow High School and authorize up to \$1,000,000 in bonds, to be issued in an amount to be determined after reduction by any grants from the State of Connecticut, to meet said appropriation?

**MAY 8, 2007 MACHINE VOTE RESULTS**

The Easton results of the Machine Vote on May 8, 2007 on the Town Budget, Region 9 Budget and Region 9 Special Appropriation for 2007-2008 are summarized below. I have also included the Redding vote that was reported to me by the Redding Town Clerk. The combined vote approved the proposed Town Budget, Region 9 Budget and the Special Appropriation. The Questions asked and the votes cast are summarized below.

**Question 1: Easton Town Budget**

Shall the Town of Easton appropriate the sum of THIRTY SEVEN MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWO THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWO DOLLARS (\$37,802,702) for the Annual Town Budget, for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008? (This includes Easton’s share of the Region No. 9 budget).

The vote was: YES: 897 NO: 889

**The Town Budget was approved.**

**Question 2: Regional School District #9 Budget**

Shall the Regional School District No. 9, comprised of the Towns of Easton and Redding, appropriate and authorize the expenditure of NINETEEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY ONE THOUSAND, AND NINETY DOLLARS (\$19,331,090) as the operating budget of the district for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008? (Easton’s share is \$8,708,656 and Redding’s share is \$10,622,434).

The vote, including the Redding vote supplied by the Redding Town Clerk, was as follows:

	YES	NO
Easton	851	836
Redding	1099	544
Total	1950	1340

**The Region 9 Budget was approved.**

**Question 3: Special Appropriation**

Shall Regional School District No. 9, comprised of the Towns of Easton and Redding, appropriate up to ONE MILLION DOLLARS \$1,000,000), (Easton’s share currently equal to 45.05% or up to \$450,500; and Redding’s share currently equal to 54.95% or up to \$549,500), for items such as roof resurfacing, development of master plan for fields and facilities, resurfacing of track, replacement of theatre curtain, replacement of theatre lighting, and replacement of rooftop heating and ventilation units for Joel Barlow High School and authorize up to \$1,000,000 in bonds, to be issued in an amount to be determined after reduction by any grants from the State of Connecticut, to meet said appropriation?

The vote, including the Redding vote supplied by the Redding Town clerk was as follows:

	YES	NO
Easton	814	878
Redding	1084	497
Total	1898	1375

**The Special Appropriation was approved.**

W. Derek Buckley  
Easton Town Clerk

**RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO REFERENDUM  
THE RESOLUTION TO PERFORM CAPITAL  
MAINTENANCE AT JOEL BARLOW HIGH  
SCHOOL**

**RESOLVED:**

Section 1. The appropriation and bonding resolution approved by the Board concurrently herewith shall be submitted to a referendum vote on voting machines by persons qualified to vote in town meetings in the Towns of Easton and Redding on May 8, 2007 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (E.D.T.) and placed on the ballot labels as the following question:

“Shall Regional School District No. 9, comprised of the Towns of Easton and Redding, appropriate up to \$1,000,000 (Easton’s share currently equal to 45.05% or up to \$450,500; and Redding’s share currently equal to 54.95% or up to \$549,500), for items such as roof resurfacing, development of master plan, resurfacing of track, replacement of theatre curtain, replacement of theatre lighting, and replacement of rooftop heating and ventilation units for Joel Barlow High School and authorize up to \$1,000,000 in bonds, to be issued in an amount to be determined after reduction by any grants from the State of Connecticut, to meet said appropriation?”

Section 2. The following polling places shall be utilized for purposes of the referendum vote on the voting machines:

Samuel Staples Elementary School 515 Morehouse Road Easton, Connecticut	Redding Community Center 37 Lonetown Road Redding, Connecticut
---	--

Section 3. Warnings of the referendum vote shall be published in newspapers having a general circulation within the Towns of Easton and Redding, respectively, not less than thirty (30) days before the date of said referendum, which warnings shall be in substantially the following forms:

**WARNING  
REFERENDUM VOTE  
Regional School District No. 9  
Town of Easton  
May 8, 2007**

A referendum vote of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Easton, Connecticut will be held in the Town of Easton at the following place:

Samuel Staples Elementary School  
515 Morehouse Road  
Easton, Connecticut

and simultaneously in Redding, Connecticut on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, upon a resolution adopted by the Regional Board of Education at a meeting held on April 4, 2007.

The resolution will be placed on the ballot labels as the following question:

“Shall Regional School District No. 9, comprised of the Towns of Easton and Redding, appropriate up to \$1,000,000 (Easton’s share currently equal to 45.05% or up to \$450,500; and Redding’s share currently equal to 54.95% or up to \$549,500), for items such as roof resurfacing, development of master plan, resurfacing of track, replacement of theatre curtain, replacement of theatre lighting, and replacement of rooftop heating and ventilation units for Joel Barlow High School and authorize up to \$1,000,000 in bonds, to be issued in an amount to be determined after reduction by any grants from the State of Connecticut, to meet said appropriation?”

Voters approving the resolution shall vote “Yes” and those opposing the resolution shall vote “No”.

Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office. Dated in Easton, Connecticut this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007.

W. Derek Buckley  
Easton Town Clerk

**WARNING REFERENDUM VOTE  
Regional School District No. 9  
Town of Redding  
May 8, 2007**

A referendum vote of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Redding, Connecticut will be held in the Town of Redding at the following place:

Redding Community Center  
37 Lonetown Road  
Redding, Connecticut

and simultaneously in Easton, Connecticut on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, upon a resolution adopted by the Regional Board of Education at a meeting held on April 4, 2007.

The resolution will be placed on the ballot labels as the following question:

“Shall Regional School District No. 9, comprised of the Towns of Easton and Redding, appropriate up to \$1,000,000 (Easton’s share currently equal to 45.05% or up to \$450,500; and Redding’s share currently equal to 54.95% or up to \$549,500), for items such as roof resurfacing, development of master plan, resurfacing of track, replacement of theatre curtain, replacement of theatre lighting, and replacement of rooftop heating and ventilation units for Joel Barlow High School and authorize up to \$1,000,000 in bonds, to be issued in an amount to be determined after reduction by any grants from the State of Connecticut, to meet said appropriation?”

Voters approving the resolution shall vote “Yes” and those opposing the resolution shall vote “No”.

Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.

Dated in Redding, Connecticut this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007.

Michele R. Grande  
Redding Town Clerk

To: W. J. Kupinse, Jr., First Selectman  
From: W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk  
Date: 5/15/2007  
Re: Park & Recreation Petition

This is to inform you that I have received a petition requesting a Special Town Meeting and Machine Vote on the subject of Reallocation of Maintenance of the Parks and Fields to the Department of Public Works. The Petition is entitled: “PETITION TO SEND THE DRAFT ORDINANCE FOR THE REALLOCATION OF MAINTENANCE OF THE PARKS AND FIELDS TO DPW.”

The text states:

“by signing this petition you are requesting that the draft ordinance which would transfer the maintenance of the parks and playing fields in town from the Parks and Recreation department to the Department of Public Works be brought to a town meeting, discussed, and then subsequently brought to a machine vote. The draft ordinance was presented by the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman of Easton on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at a Board of Selectmen meeting. By signing you acknowledge that you are a legal resident of the town and are above the age of 18.”

A copy of the Petition is attached. Also attached is an example of a Petition with the affidavit required by statute at the bottom. Note that the affidavit is absent from the Petition that was received. This requires that we assume that all of the signatures presented were executed by the person named. There is no way to determine who collected the signatures.

The town ordinance requires 50 valid signatures to call a town meeting. State Statutes require 200 signatures to require a Machine Vote.

I have compared the Petition signatures with the list of registered voters that was used for the May 8, 2007 town budget machine vote. You will note that on the petition most of the signatures, and a large number of the printed names, are illegible. Because of this it was necessary to use the street address to try and decipher the names in many cases. In addition, the printed name often does not agree with the voters name in the voting list. Middle names are omitted and first names are often abbreviated. For example Betty is substituted for Elizabeth, or Gerry for Gerald. This requires a very lenient interpretation of the printed names. With these considerations in mind I have completed the signature count for the petition and the results are as follows:

Page#	Voters	Not Listed	Illegible	TOTAL
1	19	2	1	22
2	5	1	1	7
3	19	4	0	23
4	21	3	1	25
5	20	2	2	24
6	22	1	1	24
7	22	1	1	24
8	22	2	0	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>173</b>

In summary there were:

- 150 registered voters signatures
- 16 signatures of people not on the list of registered voters
- 7 people whose printed name and signature were illegible and whose identity could not be determined from the street address.

Please note that some of the 23 unlisted and unidentified names may have been unregistered younger members of families and therefore eligible to sign if over the age of 18. There is no way to tell.

As of this date, the Petition has enough signatures to require a town meeting but not enough to mandate a machine vote.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 20, 2007; 8.00PM  
SAMUEL STAPLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
MINUTES**

Present:

- William J. Kupinse, Jr., First Selectman
- Scott S. Centrella, Selectman [arrived 8.03pm]
- Robert H. Lessler, Selectman
- W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk
- Public – about 10 people

Motion:

1. Discuss and act upon the approval of a special appropriation in the amount of \$60,000 to the Town Attorney Account for the fiscal year 2006-2007 as recommended by the Board of Finance

The meeting was called to order by the First Selectman at 8.01pm.

The First Selectman called for nominations for a Moderator. Robert H. Lessler was nominated by Roger Wollen, seconded by Val Buckley and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Town Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting a copy of which is attached.

The question was called, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Roger Wollen moved to adjourn, Elise Broach seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8.04pm.

W. Derek Buckley  
Town Clerk

## TOWN OFFICIALS

### ***Board of Selectmen***

Thomas A. Herrmann, First Selectman  
Robert H. Lessler  
Scott S. Centrella

### ***Town Clerk***

W. Derek Buckley

### ***Treasurer***

John F. Campbell

### ***Tax Collector***

Patrice Hildenbrand

### ***Registrar of Voters***

Nicholas Soares, Democratic  
Eunice K. Hanson, Republican

### ***Board of Finance***

Thomas Partridge  
Andrew Kachele  
C. Lee Hanson  
Salvatore Tartaglione  
Mark Pompa  
Elise Broach

Alternates – Kirk Bennett

Arthur Laske III

Vacancy

### ***Board of Assessment Appeals***

Hugh Barry, Chairman  
Donald Calvert  
Judy K. Weinstein

Alternates – A. Reynolds Gordon

Lori Mezes

Vacancy

### ***Library Board***

Rita Seclow-Chair  
Jon Sonneborn  
Joanne M. Sezon  
John Vance Hancock  
Gail V. Gay  
Elaine H. Spicer

### ***Easton Board of Education***

Dr. Elin Cohen  
Glenn Maiorano  
Alfred Treidel  
John Allan  
Dr. Daniel Underberger  
Dr. Alan Katz

### ***Regional Board of Education***

Dr. Judith N. Shapiro-Chair  
Arthur Poltrack  
Peter Bonfanti  
Julia Pemberton  
Mark Lewis  
Catherine Gombos-Treasurer  
Huntley Stone  
Paul N. Coppinger

### ***Constables***

George A. Beno  
James Mellen  
Joseph Silhavy  
Irving Silverman  
Richard Greiser  
Gloria Bindelglass  
John Johnston

## APPOINTED OFFICIALS

### ***Public Works Director/Town Engineer***

Edward L. Nagy

### ***Police Chief***

John F. Solomon

### ***Comptroller***

Grace Stanczyk

### ***Director of Health***

Christopher Michos, M.D.  
Paula A. Edwards, Health Officer

### ***Emergency Management Director***

Lt. Richard Doyle

### ***Building Official***

Emil Martin

### ***Fire Chief***

Douglas VonHoltz

### ***Park & Recreation Commission***

John Cunningham, Chair  
Thomas Cable, Vice Chair  
Cheryl Everett  
Kathleen A. Roach  
Kathleen Smith  
Robert Menegay  
Michael Fleischer

### ***Planning & Zoning Commission***

Robert Maquat, Chair  
Paul Dominianni  
Wallace Williams  
Marje Tracy  
Russell Leggett

Alternates - Milan Spisek

Darrin Silhavy

Steve Carlson

### ***Zoning Board of Appeals***

Charles Lynch  
Victor George  
Mitchell Greenberg  
John Harris-Chair  
Patricia Berlin

Alternates – Gregory Alves

Thomas Dollard

Vacancy

### ***Insurance Commission***

Wendy Bowditch  
Peter Pisaretz  
John Allan  
Eileen Stirling  
Thomas A. Herrmann

***Tree Warden***

Richard B. McLaughlin

***Municipal Agent for the Elderly***

Patricia Finick

***Zoning Enforcement Officer/Wetlands Enforcement Officer***

Phillip A. Doremus

***Assessor***

Teresa Rainieri

***Measurer of Wood***

Joseph Silhavy

Irving Snow

***Fire Marshal***

Peter G. Neary

Deputy Marshals - Lucy Crossman

Schuyler Sherwood

Amy Borofsky

***Board of Ethics***

Richard Scalo

Michael Reisman

Sal Morlando

Beverly Nardone

Barbara Stowell

***Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency***

***Representatives***

Wallace Williams

John Neary

***Easton Representative to the Southwestern Connecticut***

***Emergency Medical Services Council***

Marjorie Smith

***Emergency Medical Communications Center, Inc***

***Representative***

Jonathan Maisel

***Police Commission***

Raymond Martin

Robert Nicola

John Neary

Richard J. Colangelo, Jr.

Ronald Kowalski, II

***Emergency Medical Services Commission***

William Chiarenzelli

James Spak, M.D.

Robert Adriani

Gloria Bindelglass

Adele O'Kane

***Pension & Employee Benefits Commission***

Alan Goldbecker- Chairman

Dennis M. Laccavole-Secretary

A. Reynolds Gordon

John Harrington

Marvin Gelfand

H. Michael Keden

Thomas A. Herrmann

***Solid Waste Commission***

Clint Salko, Chairman

Thomas Collins

Anthony Colonnese

Thomas Dollard

Philip Snow

***Advisory Board for the Easton Senior Center***

Robert Factor

Andy Wolff

Janet Gordon

Prabha Gupta

Joan Kirk

Sharon Cregeen

Claire J. Paolini, Ph.D.

Marilyn Santella

Sal Santella

Alice Weissman

Stephanie Chisholm

Brigitte Shkreli

***Fire Commission***

George Beno

Ralph Altieri

Robert Monda

Anthony Colonnese

Theresa Connell

***Conservation Commission***

Stephen Edwards

Adam Dunsby

Dori Wollen

Eleanor Sylvestro

Robert Falkenhagen

Stephen Corti

Roy Gosse

Alternates – Peggy Macaluso

Marla Manning

vacancy

***Commission for the Aging***

Terri Kelso

Cecilia Campbell

Phyllis Neary

Gail Gay

Sharon Poole

Alternates - Janet Klein

Nancy Gavigan

Carol Hume

***Area Nine Cable Council Representatives***

Leighton Jordan

Andy Anderson

Douglas Dempsey

***Connecticut Coastal Fairfield County***

***Convention & Visitor Bureau***

Mary Ann Freeman

***Human Resource Advisory Committee***

Grace Stanczyk

William J. Kupinse, Jr.

Valerie Buckley

Kathleen Loudon

Elise Broach

Thomas A. Herrmann

***Safety and Health Committee***

Althea J. Falco

Gary Csanadi

Terry Calgreen

Kathleen Loudon

Kay Oestreicher  
Mary Enos  
Gary Simone  
Robert Cocivi  
Keith Rivoir

**Social Services**

Josephine Stenqvist, Director

**School Building Committee 2001**

Theodore Catino  
Ralph Delia, Jr.  
Fred Loder  
Peg Macaluso  
Steve Rowland, AIA  
Robert Alan Schrage  
Huntley J. Stone  
Daniel M. Underberger, M.D.  
Glen Maiorano  
David Orticelli  
Joseph Silhavy  
Joseph Schwartz

**Tax Relief for the Elderly Committee 2005**

Valerie Buckley  
Walter Eastwood  
Pat Finick  
Reynolds Gordon, Esq.  
Claire J. Paolini, Ph.D.  
Linda Dollard  
Jennifer Alves

**Cemetery Committee**

W. Derek Buckley  
Phillip Doremus  
Gary Haines  
David Silverglade  
Lynn Geane  
Robert Bloom-Alternate  
Jonathan Fanton-Adjunct  
Mary Lou Weinstein-Adjunct  
Kevin Andrew King-Adjunct

**Senior Center Building Committee**

John Bromer  
Joseph Schettino  
Foster McKeon  
Robert Sullivan

**Animal Control Committee**

Peg Macaluso  
June Logie  
Marvin Gelfand  
Marnie Waiwat  
Clinton Hackson  
Clarence Jennings

**Central Office Building Committee**

Susan Farmer  
Alan Katz  
Russell Neary

**Clean Energy Task Force**

Heidi Armster  
Fred Lovejoy  
Robert DeVellis

Catherine Alfandre  
Katie Callahan  
Regina McNamara

**9-11 Memorial Building Committee**

Sal M. Santella, M.D.  
Maureen George  
Paula Barker  
Beverlee Dacey  
Liz Maiorano  
Eleanor Sylvestro  
Heather Noga

**Land Preservation and Acquisition Authority**

Victor Alfandre  
A.J. Afridi  
Carolyn Colangelo  
Gail Bromer  
Robert Ehlers

**TOWN DEPARTMENTS  
AND EMPLOYEES**

**Selectman's Office**

William J. Kupinse, Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman (to Nov 5)  
Thomas A. Herrmann, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman (as of Nov 6)  
Scott Centrella, Selectman  
Robert Lessler, Selectman  
Althea Falco, Administrative Assistant  
Diane Zadrozny, Receptionist  
Terry Calgreen, Custodian

**Town Clerk**

W. Derek Buckley, Town Clerk & Registrar of  
Vital Statistics  
Joan Kirk, Assistant Town Clerk & Assistant  
Registrar of Vital Statistics  
Deborah Szegedi – Assistant Town Clerk &  
Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics

**Treasurer's Office**

Suzanne McCauley, Treasurer (to Nov 5)  
John Campbell, Treasurer (as of Nov 6)  
Grace Stanczyk, Comptroller  
Kathleen Loudon, HRCC  
Diane Zadrozny, Accounts Payable Clerk

**Planning & Zoning Department**

John Hayes, Land Use Director  
Phillip A. Doremus, Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Margaret Anania, Secretary

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Margaret Anania, Secretary

**Building Department**

Emil Martin, Building Official  
Josephine Stenqvist, Secretary

**Health Department**

Christopher Michos, M.D., Director of Health  
Paula Edwards, Health Official  
Sheila Piritzky, Secretary

**Conservation Department**

Phillip Doremus, Wetlands Enforcement Officer  
 Janice Greiser, Secretary

**Assessor's Office**

Teresa Rainieri, Assessor  
 Louise Oakes, Assessor's Assistant

**Tax Collector**

Patrice Hildenbrand, Tax Collector  
 Janice Greiser, Assistant Tax Collector

**Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

Patricia Finick, Agent  
 Pamela Healy, Outreach Worker

**Senior Center**

Valerie Buckley, Director  
 Cheryl (Kay) Oestreicher, Asst Director  
 Maria Moura, Custodian  
 Aimee Goerg, Driver

**Park & Recreation Department**

Gary Simone, Director  
 Lauren Granata, Programmer  
 Danielle Alves, Afterschool Program Coordinator  
 and Department Secretary  
 Chris Lemos, Maintenance Supervisor  
 Walt Litzie, Maintainer I

**Library**

Bernadette Baldino, Director  
 Sharon Daniel, Assistant Director  
 K. Kelly Gile, Children's/Young Adult Librarian

**Assistants-**

Barbara Fitchen  
 Ann A. Salvia  
 Penelope Papadoulis  
 Michael Pettiti  
 Nancy Harris  
 Margaret Timlin  
 Sharon Cohen

**Aides**

Lisa Macaluso  
 Alexis Smith  
 Amanda Wenger  
 Julia Mazzeo  
 Ryan Santoro  
 Becca McCann  
 Carlo Minasi  
 John McKissick  
 Hilary Angelo

**Police Department**

John F. Solomon, Police Chief  
 James R. Candee, Captain  
 Richard Doyle, Lieutenant  
 William Spencer, Sergeant  
 Jonathan Arnold, Sergeant

**Police Officers**

Christopher Barton  
 Thomas Brennan  
 David Buck  
 Thomas Ceccarelli  
 Gary Csanadi

Tamra French  
 James Iannucci  
 Mark Pastor  
 David Simpson  
 Vasco Lacerda

**Special Officers**

John Bech  
 Craig Tibbals  
 Oreibis Flores  
 Diane Barriga, Administrative Assistant  
 Bonnie Protsko, Records Clerk I  
 Joanne Benson, Records Clerk II

**Communications Department****Dispatchers**

Diane Adiletta  
 Greg Ceraso  
 Chris Lazar

**Part Time Dispatchers**

Richard Applebaum  
 Cheryl Smolinsky  
 Ann Slimak  
 Joanne Benson  
 Cari-Ann Logie  
 Susana DeMoura  
 Eric Lorenz  
 Jason Rivera

**Canine Control**

Kelly Fitch, Dog Warden  
 Mary Munck, Assistant Dog Warden  
 Marjorie Costa, Assistant Dog Warden  
 Gina Gambino, Assistant Dog Warden

**Registrars of Voters**

Nicholas Soares, Democrat  
 Eunice Hanson, Republican

**Public Works Department**

Edward L. Nagy, Director and Town Engineer  
 Keith Rivoir, Highway Superintendent  
 Jeanie Schwartz, Secretary  
 Daniel Treadwell, Garage Mgr/Lead Mechanic  
 Robert Cocivi, Facilities Technician

**Highwaymen**

Scott Smith  
 Don Perkins  
 Oscar Sampaio  
 Jaime Correia  
 Mark Iacobucci  
 Jason Perkins  
 Mark Alves  
 William Bantle, Jr.  
 William Goessinger  
 Andrew Zielinski

**Emergency Medical Services**

Andrew Rosenthal, EMT  
 John Snyder, EMT  
 Majorie Smith, EMS Service Chief  
 Jonathan Arnold, EMS Assistant Service Chief  
 Majorie Olschan, Part time EMT  
 Victor Malindretos

Victoria Cavanagh  
Todd Olschan  
Carolyn Kearney  
Brian Walsh  
Bruce Lewis  
Gabor Meszaros  
Antonio DeSimone  
Adam Goldstein

**Emergency Management Director**

Richard Doyle

**Fire Department**

Douglas Von Holtz, Fire Chief  
James Girardi, First Assistant Chief  
Eric Resko, Second Assistant Chief  
Peter Neary, Fire Marshal  
Schuyler Sherwood, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Lucy Crossman, Deputy Fire Marshal

**Firemen**

Wayne Crossman  
Michael Ohradan  
James Wright  
R. David Davies  
Alfred Doty  
Michael Sabia, Jr  
Michael Strehan  
Martin Ohradan

Haber, Rachel  
Heran, Kimberly  
Hobbs, Laura  
Holroyd, Stephanie  
Kaplan, Susan  
Keleher, Robin  
Kenney, Bridget Mary  
Kuruc, Jill M.  
Lambert, Courtney  
Lavine, Marcy  
Lazar, Diane  
Linker, Ellen  
MacArthur, Carey  
Maggi, Courtney  
Marchetti, Emily  
Menegay, Judith  
Menegay, Robert  
Minty, Paige  
Muccio, Mary  
Nicola, Diana  
Olschan, Kathryn  
Paciello, Sunny Michelle  
Pilkington, Dawn  
Remmell, Diana  
Russo, Christopher  
Scholz, Darcy  
Selvaggi, Arlene  
Simmons, Helen  
Tester, Jennifer  
Traggianese, Amy  
Woodford, Karen

**ADMINISTRATION AND  
TEACHING STAFF**

**Samuel Staples Elementary School**

**Principal**

Fox-Santora, Kimberly

**Assistant Principal**

LaTorre, Catherine

**Director Special Services**

Dekle, Donna

**Teachers**

Anderson, Claudia  
Arlotta, Jeanine  
Ashby, Charleen  
Bachelder, Maureen  
Bates, Allan  
Brakeman, John  
Breuer, Wanda  
Chatfield, Callen  
Clark, Russell  
Colasanto, Kristen  
Connaughton, Anne  
Cooper, Donald  
Cox, Kelly  
Duffy, Lynne  
Durette, Kay  
Edwards, Jennifer  
Fuller, Amy  
Giglio-Opalinski, Elizabeth L.  
Graser, Meghan

**Special Ed Teachers**

Barnard, Stacey  
Breuer, Wanda  
Herrick, Robert  
James, Scott  
Kessler, Melissa  
Langlois, Laura  
Loescher, Maria  
Morrow, Patricia  
Orendorf, Leslie  
Pico, Katharine  
Skoczylas, Julianne  
Stern, Karen  
Wulf, Linda

**Helen Keller Middle School  
Principal**

Parker, Joan

**Assistant Principal**

Doak, Daniel

**Teachers**

Breyer, David A.  
Broas, Sarah  
Brodeur, Cynthia  
Cioppa, Roberta  
Cockerham, Arthur  
Culliton, Nancy  
Dunkerton, Amber  
Gass, Theodore  
Gettler, Sally  
Grenier, Mary  
Henry, Paula  
Kilgannon, Laurel  
King, Jean  
Kirk, Megan  
LaValle, Robert  
Maggi, Linda  
Mahoney, Cindy  
Marusa, Debora  
Ongley, Robyn  
Powell, Stacey  
Rose, Jennifer  
Schweikert, Karen  
Scrivani, Ann  
Sheehy, Mary Ann  
Solis, Nicole  
Studeney, Jason  
Thomas, Patricia  
Tramontano, Jean  
Ustie, Elizabeth  
Weinshel, Carol

**Special Ed Teachers**

Cuttner, Nancy  
Donegan, Tracey  
Richter, Leslie  
Salko-Peddle, Sheila H.

**Joel Barlow Regional High School #9  
Principal**

Thomas McMorran

**Assistant Principal**

Haig, Susan

**Teachers**

Albano, Donna  
Anderson, Michelle  
Angelis, Michael  
Antal, Steven  
August, Eric  
Bailey, Beth  
Barna, Frederick  
Bender, Judith  
Benedetto, Carie  
Bielizna, Jerome  
Breault, Christopher  
Brix, Nancy  
Budd, Jonathan S.  
Carleton, Emily  
Ciancio, Brian  
Christman, Amy  
Correa, Catherine  
Craw, Kenneth  
Crowley, John  
D'Amato, Daniela  
DelAngelo, Henry  
Desmarais, Jennifer  
Detelich, Charles  
DeVoto, James  
Dolan, James  
Ecsedy, Michael  
Egan, Jeanne F.  
Eller, George  
Erickson, Ashley  
Estes, Lori  
Fricker, Jacob  
Garamella, Judith  
Garvey, Janice  
Gervasoni, Fred  
Goodpaster, Pamela  
Hamlin, Paul B.  
Horton, Cheryl  
Huebner, Ileana  
Huminski, Carolyn  
Huot, Charles  
Intemann, Michael  
Kilbourn, Maureen  
Kilbourn, Thomas  
Kipp, Anne  
Leahey, Barbara  
Leniart, Daniel  
Lewis, John  
Light, Randall  
Luzietti, Brian H.  
Magrino, Filomena  
McNulty, Vincenza Jane  
McTague, Julie

Morton, Susan  
Nocturne, Margaret  
Nuzzo, Katherine  
Panos, Paula  
Pieratti, Maryanne  
Pirie, Eliza  
Potpinka, Thomas  
Poulos, Christopher  
Preis, Deirdra  
Ramirez, Jennifer Short  
Rao, Christina  
Reimold, Scott  
Richter, Thomas  
Saluga, Richard  
Santangeli, Michael  
Skalkos, Leigh  
Smith, Barbara  
Smith, Randall  
Sopko, Joseph  
Spinner, Daniel  
Staley, Jessica  
Staron, Angela  
Sugden, Mary Elizabeth  
Taubner, Debra  
Tartaglia, Nicole  
Therien, Beth  
VanAusdal, Sandra  
Waterman, Waltraut  
Wright, Alison

**Special Ed Teachers**

Adamakos, Margaret  
Barcham, Dale  
Brown, Jeffrey  
Feranec, Sandra  
Fredericks, Rebecca  
Hrebin, Mary Pat  
Powers, John  
Queen, Christine  
Roberts, Marlene  
Roszko, Patricia  
Schutt, Cheryl  
Stragazzi, Matt  
Sullivan, Karen E.

## TOWN DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY	911
POLICE - FIRE - AMBULANCE	
NON-EMERGENCY	268-4111
POLICE - FIRE - AMBULANCE	
TOWN HALL	268-6291
FAX	268-4928
FIRST SELECTMAN	
ASSESSOR	
TOWN CLERK	
TAX COLLECTOR	
TREASURER	
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	
PLANNING & ZONING	
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	
CONSERVATION	
REGISTRARS	
LIBRARY	261-0134
SENIOR CENTER	268-1145
MUNICIPAL AGENT	268-1137
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	268-0714
PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT	268-7200
DOG WARDEN	268-9172
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS - CENTRAL OFFICE	261-2513
SAMUEL STAPLES SCHOOL	261-3607
HELEN KELLER MIDDLE SCHOOL	268-8651
JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL	938-2508
EASTON POST OFFICE	261-8386
PROBATE JUDGE - JOHN P. CHIOTA	452-5068
FAX	452-5092
STATE OFFICIALS - SENATOR JOHN McKINNEY	
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN STRIPP	
U.S. OFFICIALS - SENATOR CHRISTOPHER J. DODD	
SENATOR JOSEPH L. LIEBERMAN	
CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER SHAYS	

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

<b>Advisory Board Easton Senior Center</b>	2nd Tuesday	5:00 p.m.
Senior Center		
<b>Animal Control Committee</b>	2nd and 4th Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.
Police Department		
<b>Annual Town Meeting</b>	Last Monday in April	8:00 p.m.
Samuel Staples School		
<b>Board of Assessment Appeals</b>		
Assessor's Office - Town Hall		
Property Tax Grievances - March		
Motor Vehicle Tax Grievances - September		
Assessor's Office - Town Hall		
<b>Board of Education</b>	Monthly - Check Posting	7:30 p.m.
Helen Keller Middle School		
<b>Board of Ethics</b>	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Board of Finance</b>	1st Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Board of Selectmen</b>	1st and 3rd Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Board of Zoning Appeals</b>	1st Monday	5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Cemetery Committee</b>	March, June, Sept. and Dec.	3:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Central Office Building Committee</b>	As Required	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room & SSES Media Center		
<b>Clean Energy Task Force</b>	4th Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Commission for the Aging</b>	1st Monday	5:00 p.m.
Senior Center		
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	2nd and 4th Tuesdays	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>EMS Commission</b>	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
EMS Headquarters		
<b>Fire Commission</b>	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Firehouse		
<b>Financial Oversight Committee</b>	3rd Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
<b>Human Resources Advisory Committee</b>	As Required	
<b>Insurance Commission</b>	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Land Preservation and Acquisition Authority</b>	2nd Tuesday-every other month	7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

<b>Library Board of Trustees</b>	1st Monday	7:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room		
<b>9-11 Memorial Building Committee</b>	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Park &amp; Recreation</b>	1st Monday	7:30 p.m.
Helen Keller Middle School		
<b>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</b>	2nd and 4th Mondays	6:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Pension Committee</b>	2nd Tues. Jan, May, Aug & Nov.	5:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
<b>Pension &amp; Employee Benefits</b>	2nd Tuesday - Bimonthly	8:30 a.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Police Commission</b>	2nd Monday	5:30 p.m.
Police Department		
<b>PHNA</b>	4th Monday	2:00 p.m.
As Announced		
<b>Regional Board of Education</b>	Check Posting	7:30 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School		
<b>Safety and Health Committee</b>	As Required	
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Senior Center Building Committee</b>	Every Monday	7:15 p.m.
Senior Center		
<b>Solid Waste Commission</b>	2nd Wednesday	4:00 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room		
<b>Tax Relief for the Elderly</b>	As Required	5:30 p.m.
Senior Center		
<b>2001 School Building Committee</b>	As Required	
As Announced		
<b>2003 School Building Committee</b>	As Required	
As Announced		

## TOWN CALENDAR

<b>SELECTMAN’S OFFICE</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>ASSESSOR</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>TOWN CLERK</b>	Monday-Friday	9:00-2:00
<b>TAX COLLECTOR</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>TREASURER</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	Monday-Friday Mon.-Homeowners Only	8:30-12:30&1:00-4:30 Till 6:00
<b>HEALTH DEPARTMENT</b>	Monday,Wednesday,Friday	8:30-12:30&1:00-4:30
<b>PLANNING &amp; ZONING</b>	Mon.,Tues.,Thurs.,Fri.	9:30-1:30
<b>ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS</b>	Wednesday	9:30-1:30
<b>CONSERVATION</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-12:30
<b>REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</b>	Thursday	9:30-3:00
<b>LIBRARY</b>	Monday, Friday Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday Saturday Closed Sundays	10:00-5:00 10:00-8:00 10:00-6:00 10:00-3:00
<b>SENIOR CENTER</b>	Monday-Friday	8:00-3:30
<b>MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY</b>	Monday-Friday	8:00-1:00
<b>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT</b>	Monday-Friday	7:00-3:30
<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION DEPARTMENT</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-12:30
<b>TAXES DUE</b>	FIRST HALF SECOND HALF	July 1 <sup>st</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>DOG LICENSES DUE – TOWK CLERK</b>	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>HUNTING &amp; FISHING LICENSES – TOWK CLERK</b>	All Year	
<b>REGISTRATION OF BEES – TOWN CLERK</b>	Before October 1 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>TRANSFER STATION PERMITS-RECEPTIONIST</b>	Monday-Friday	8:30-4:30
<b>ANNUAL TOWN MEETING</b>	Last Monday in April	8:00 P.M.

## **THE STAPLES GUARDIAN FUND**

The Staples Guardian Fund Annual Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2007

The Staples Guardian Fund was established by Mr. Samuel Staples on January 7, 1787 to provide monies for the education of poor persons residing in what then was the Town of Weston. The Town of Weston was later sub-divided into the present towns of Weston and Easton. By a Special Act of the Connecticut Legislature in 1921, the trust assets in real estate were authorized to be sold, and to invest the proceeds thereof in accordance with the laws relating to the investment of trust funds, with the income to be disbursed between the two towns pro-rata with the number of the enumerated pupils in each town. Pursuant to a second Special Act of Connecticut Legislature in 1967, the Town of Weston shall distribute its share to a scholarship committee, the members of which shall be appointed by the Weston Guardians of The Staples Guardian Fund and approved by the Weston Board of Selectmen. The Staples Scholarship Committee of Weston shall administer the income received to provide college scholarships for Weston residents on the basis of financial need. The Town of Easton directs their distributive share into the General Fund of the Town.

Diane L. Hartman was appointed Treasurer of the Staples Guardian Fund on November 14, 1997. The two Trustees who administer the fund from Weston are Ann Malin and Diane Hartman.

The original stock certificates are kept at the Town of Weston Town Hall, in the custody of the Town Clerk's office, along with the historical records of the fund. The Treasurer's responsibilities include being the custodian of the funds, investing these funds as agreed upon by the trustees, paying obligations, and compiling the annual financial statements and supporting schedules.

The market value of the investments held by the Staples Guardian Fund at June 30, 2007 totaled \$94,209. The income distribution generated by those investments for the year ended June 30, 2007 is estimated to be \$1,621. The distribution will be divided between the Weston Scholarship Committee and the Town of Easton based upon student enrollment as of October 1, 2006. On that basis the Town of Easton's share will approximate 30% of the \$1621 or some \$490.

## Report of Independent Accountants

Board of Finance  
Town of Easton  
Easton, Connecticut

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Easton, Connecticut, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2007, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These basic financial statements are the responsibility of the Town's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control over financial reporting. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall basic financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Easton, Connecticut, as of June 30, 2007, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 9 and budgetary comparison information on pages 41 through 45 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Easton, Connecticut's basic financial statements. The accompanying financial information listed as supplemental schedules in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining fund financial statements and other schedules as listed in the table of contents have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 12, 2007 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

*Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C.*

December 12, 2007



# Town of Easton

TOWN HALL - 225 CENTER ROAD, P.O. BOX 61  
EASTON, CONNECTICUT 06612

TELEPHONE (203) 268-6291  
FAX (203) 268-4928

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

Management of the Town of Easton offer readers of these financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007.

The purpose of the MD&A is to provide to the reader an interpretation of the financial information and results of the fiscal year.

### **Financial Highlights**

- The assets of the Town exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent year by \$54,016,516 (net assets). Of this amount, \$6,373,867 (unrestricted net assets) may be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The Town's total net assets increased by \$2,673,670. Substantially all of the increase is attributable to capital expenditures in excess of depreciation expense and an increase in property tax revenue.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$4,430,049, an increase of \$59,091 in comparison with the prior year.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved and undesignated fund balance for the General Fund was \$4,794,464 or 13.8% of total General Fund expenditures and transfers out.
- The Town's total long-term obligations increased by \$525,000 during the current fiscal year. The Town paid bond principal of \$2,745,000 and bond interest of \$1,640,429.

### **Overview of the Basic Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to basic financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

### **Government-Wide Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net assets presents information on all of the Town's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Town is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the Town's net assets changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net assets are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

The government-wide financial statements present only government activities whose functions are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues. The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, public works, health and welfare, education, library, and parks and recreation.

**Fund Financial Statements.** A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Town can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds.

**Governmental Funds.** Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resource, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a Town's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the Town's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Town maintains 25 individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances for the General Fund and Bonded Capital Project Fund, both of which are considered to be major funds. Data from the other 23 governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation. Individual fund data for each of these nonmajor governmental funds is provided in the form of combining statements elsewhere in this report.

The Town adopts an annual appropriated budget for its General Fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the General Fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

**Proprietary Funds.** The Town maintains one proprietary fund. Internal service funds are an accounting device used to accumulate and allocate costs internally among the Town's various functions. The Town uses an internal service fund to account for the Board of Education medical insurance benefits. This activity has been included within governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements.

**Fiduciary Funds.** Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the Town. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Town's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

**Notes to Basic Financial Statements.** The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

**Other information.** The combining statements referred to earlier in connection with nonmajor governmental funds are presented immediately following the required supplementary information on pensions. Combining and individual fund statements and schedules can be found on Exhibits B1 and B2.

**Government-Wide Financial Analysis**

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a Town's financial position. In the case of the Town, assets exceeded liabilities by \$54,016,516 at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

A large portion of the Town's net assets (88.2%) reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, construction in progress, land improvements, buildings, building improvements, machinery and equipment, and vehicles), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

**TOWN OF EASTON NET ASSETS  
JUNE 30, 2007 AND 2006**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	
	<u>2007*</u>	<u>2006</u>
Current and other assets	\$ 12,641,619	\$ 11,895,797
Capital assets, net	86,894,463	71,368,466
Total assets	<u>99,536,082</u>	<u>83,264,263</u>
Long-term debt outstanding	38,440,117	41,261,590
Other liabilities	7,079,449	6,509,307
Total liabilities	<u>45,519,566</u>	<u>47,770,897</u>
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	47,642,649	28,586,505
Unrestricted	<u>6,373,867</u>	<u>6,906,861</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$ 54,016,516</u>	<u>\$ 35,493,366</u>

\* The town implemented the provisions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34 which relate to recording infrastructure acquired prior to July 1, 2002, the implementation date of the standard. The beginning balance of the infrastructure account was increased by \$23,793,423 and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure by \$7,790,596.

None of the Town's net assets represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net assets, \$6,373,867, may be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town is able to report positive balances in both categories of net assets for the Town as a whole.

**TOWN OF EASTON CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2007 AND 2006**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Revenues:		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 1,591,043	\$ 1,813,174
Operating grants and contributions	1,924,851	1,842,552
Capital grants and contributions		1,618,542
General revenues:		
Property taxes	32,903,341	30,819,901
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific purposes	255,731	122,853
Investment income	929,359	499,107
Miscellaneous	17,216	
Total revenues	37,621,541	36,716,129
Program expenses:		
General government	2,926,556	2,524,529
Public safety	2,823,585	3,338,783
Public works	3,165,723	2,536,352
Health and welfare	332,090	314,819
Education	22,573,745	20,878,601
Library	724,807	619,178
Parks and recreation	771,168	880,346
Interest expense	1,630,197	1,719,331
Total expenses	34,947,871	32,811,939
Change in net assets	2,673,670	3,904,190
Net assets - beginning of year (as restated)	51,342,846	31,589,176
Net assets - end of year	\$ 54,016,516	\$ 35,493,366

Property taxes increased by \$2,083,440 (6.8%) during the year. Most of this increase is to fund normal operating increases including the debt service for the new elementary school.

Operating grants increased by \$82,299 (4.5%) during the year. Most of this increase is due to educational grants and additional public safety and public works grants.

Capital grants and contributions decreased by \$1,618,542 during the year. Most of this decrease is due to the reduction in the amount of progress payments due to the completion of the new elementary school.

**Financial Analysis of the Town's Funds**

As noted earlier, the Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

**Governmental Funds.** The focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a Town's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$4,430,049 an increase of \$59,091. All of this amount constitutes unreserved fund balance, which is available for spending at the Town's discretion.

The General Fund is the operating fund of the Town. At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved fund balance was \$4,794,464. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare the unreserved fund balance to total General Fund expenditures. Unreserved and undesignated fund balance represents 13.8% of total General Fund expenditures and other financing uses, while total fund balance represents 15.4% of that same amount.

### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

The most significant difference between the original budget and the final amended budget included additional appropriations of \$175,600 and budget transfers from various departments to the transfers out account to purchase equipment, services for revaluation of property and funds for the new animal shelter project. During this fiscal year, the Board of Finance made special appropriations to the Tree Warden's, Senior Center's, Town Clerk's, Recycling's and Cemetery's budgets. In addition, the Board of Finance made special appropriations to the Wells Hill Bridge and Old SSS Renovations Capital Projects, and the Town Meeting approved a special appropriation of \$60,000 to the Town Attorney's budget.

A significant budget variance was a positive variance of \$231,069 in the fringe benefit account mainly due to the increased percentage deductions from employees and lower than expected health insurance costs. Another significant budget variance was a positive variance of \$197,721 in the Public Works Department due to several positions' vacancies.

### **Bonded Capital Projects Fund**

This fund accounts for financial resources from general obligation bonds to be used for major capital asset construction and/or purchases. During the year ended June 30, 2007, nearly all of the expenditures were for the construction of the new elementary school.

### **Capital Assets and Debt Administration**

**Capital Assets.** The Town's investment in capital assets as of June 30, 2007 is \$86,894,463 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, land improvements, buildings, building improvements, machinery and equipment, and vehicles.

Majority capital asset events during the current fiscal year included the following:

- The beginning of the Wells Hill Bridge Capital Project.
- The continuation of the Senior Center Renovation Capital Project.
- The remaining additions and deletions consisted of various equipment and vehicles for Town departments.

**TOWN OF EASTON CAPITAL ASSETS  
(Net of Depreciation)**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Land	\$ 12,878,656	\$ 12,878,656
Construction in progress		30,597,845
Land improvements	16,332	21,226
Buildings	55,503,308	25,155,737
Building improvements	15,628	16,078
Machinery and equipment	351,475	391,141
Vehicles	1,525,386	1,367,157
Infrastructure*	<u>16,603,678</u>	<u>940,626</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 86,894,463</u>	 <u>\$ 71,368,466</u>

\*The Town implemented infrastructure reporting as required by GASB Statement No. 34 this year. As a result, capital assets at July 1, 2006 increased by a net of \$16,002,827.

Additional information on the Town's capital assets can be found in Note 5 of this report.

**Long-Term Debt.** At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town had total debt outstanding of \$40,070,000. All of this debt comprises debt backed by the full faith and credit of the Town.

**TOWN OF EASTON OUTSTANDING DEBT  
General Obligation Bonds and Notes**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
General Obligation Bonds - Town improvements	\$ 7,183,500	\$ 7,845,000
General Obligation Bonds - School improvements	29,616,500	31,700,000
Bond Anticipation Notes	<u>3,900,000</u>	<u>3,500,000</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 40,700,000</u>	 <u>\$ 43,045,000</u>

The Town is also obligated for a portion of the Regional School District No. 9 general obligation debt in the net amount of \$11,201,246.

In February 2007, the Town issued \$3,900,000 in bond anticipation notes. The interest rates for the notes were 4.0%.

During the fiscal year, the Town made bond principal payments of \$2,745,000 and interest payments of \$1,640,000 for school and general purpose debt.

The Town maintains an "Aa1" credit rating from Moody's Investors Service, Inc., for its general obligation debt.

State statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt a governmental entity may issue to 7 times its tax collections including interest and lien fees and the tax relief for elderly freeze grant. The current debt limitation for the Town is \$231,712,747, which is significantly in excess of the Town's outstanding general obligation debt.

### **Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget and Rates**

The following are some factors that were considered in preparing the Town's budget for the 2008 fiscal year:

- The unemployment rate for the Town is currently 3.1%. This compares favorably to the state's average unemployment rate of 4.5% and the national average rate of 4.7 %.
- Inflationary trends in the region compare favorably to national indices.
- The former elementary school building is partially leased to a private school and partially utilized by the Town's senior center that will begin renovations with a Small Cities Grant and State STEAP Grant.
- Town's elected and appointed officials considered Town-wide trends when setting the fiscal year 2008 budget. The Town decided that it was important to continue to support the school system and adopt a budget designed to promote long-term financial stability. In order to meet these objectives, the Town recognized the need to continue its pattern of conservative budgeting while at the same time providing excellent services to our residents and taxpayers.
- At June 30, 2007, unreserved and undesignated fund balance in the General Fund was \$4,794,464.

### **Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Chairman, Board of Finance or the Office of the Controller, Town of Easton, 225 Center Road, Easton, Connecticut 06612.

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

## STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

JUNE 30, 2007

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets:	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,147,962
Investments	4,732,504
Receivables, net	1,413,313
Other	
Bond issuance costs	9,338
Total current assets	<u>12,303,117</u>
Noncurrent assets:	
Capital assets:	
Assets not being depreciated	12,878,656
Assets being depreciated, net	74,015,807
Total capital assets	<u>86,894,463</u>
Bond issuance costs	104,640
Net pension asset	233,862
Total noncurrent assets	<u>87,232,965</u>
Total assets	<u>99,536,082</u>
Liabilities:	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,613,450
Due to Regional School District No. 9 and Town of Redding	539,068
Unamortized bond premiums	26,931
Bond anticipation notes	3,900,000
Total current liabilities	<u>7,079,449</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Long-term liabilities due within one year	2,884,389
Long-term liabilities due in more than one year	35,555,728
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>38,440,117</u>
Total liabilities	<u>45,519,566</u>
Net Assets:	
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	47,642,649
Unrestricted	6,373,867
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 54,016,516</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions
Governmental activities:				
General government	\$ 2,926,556	\$ 579,579	\$ 15,683	\$ (2,331,294)
Public safety	2,823,585	190,786	173,507	(2,459,292)
Public works	3,165,723	268,491	8,663	(2,888,569)
Health and welfare	332,090	149,327	7,315	(175,448)
Education	22,573,745	95,161	1,706,687	(20,771,897)
Library	724,807		12,996	(711,811)
Parks and recreation	771,168	307,699		(463,469)
Interest expense	1,630,197			(1,630,197)
Total governmental activities	\$ <u>34,947,871</u>	\$ <u>1,591,043</u>	\$ <u>1,924,851</u>	\$ <u>(31,431,977)</u>
General revenues:				
Property taxes				32,903,341
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs				255,731
Investment income				929,359
Miscellaneous				17,216
Total general revenues				<u>34,105,647</u>
Change in net assets				2,673,670
Net Assets - Beginning of Year, as restated				<u>51,342,846</u>
Net Assets - End of Year				\$ <u><u>54,016,516</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

BALANCE SHEET  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2007

	<u>General</u>	<u>Bonded Capital Projects</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,123,695	\$	\$ 1,024,267	\$ 6,147,962
Investments	3,768,897		963,607	4,732,504
Receivables:				
Property taxes	469,207			469,207
Accounts	52,906			52,906
Intergovernmental	670,152		9,863	680,015
Due from other funds	<u>840,541</u>	<u>713,081</u>	<u>1,742,035</u>	<u>3,295,657</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 10,925,398</u>	<u>\$ 713,081</u>	<u>\$ 3,739,772</u>	<u>\$ 15,378,251</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 617,495	\$ 643,343	\$ 2,584	\$ 1,263,422
Accrued liabilities	878,818			878,818
Due to Regional School District No. 9	403,260			403,260
Due to other funds	2,605,116	361,560	478,981	3,445,657
Unearned revenue	1,057,045			1,057,045
Bond anticipation notes		<u>3,900,000</u>		<u>3,900,000</u>
Total liabilities	<u>5,561,734</u>	<u>4,904,903</u>	<u>481,565</u>	<u>10,948,202</u>
Fund balances:				
Unreserved, reported in:				
Designated for subsequent year's budget	332,000			332,000
Designated for potential claims	140,000			140,000
Designated for debt service	97,200			97,200
General Fund	4,794,464			4,794,464
Special revenue funds			2,222,815	2,222,815
Capital projects funds		<u>(4,191,822)</u>	<u>1,035,392</u>	<u>(3,156,430)</u>
Total fund balances	<u>5,363,664</u>	<u>(4,191,822)</u>	<u>3,258,207</u>	<u>4,430,049</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 10,925,398</u>	<u>\$ 713,081</u>	<u>\$ 3,739,772</u>	<u>\$ 15,378,251</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT**

**RECONCILIATION OF FUND BALANCES -  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

**JUNE 30, 2007**

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets (Exhibit I) are different from the governmental funds balance sheet. The details of this difference are as follows:

Total fund balances (Exhibit III)	\$ 4,430,049
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Beginning net capital assets and current additions	88,192,406
Depreciation expense	(1,268,025)
Disposal of capital assets	(29,918)
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds:	
Property tax interest and lien accrual	311,185
Property tax receivable - accrual basis change	428,136
School building grant receivable	628,909
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(100,000)
Bond issue costs	113,978
Net pension asset	233,862
Internal service funds are used by management to charge the cost of medical insurance to individual departments:	
The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are included in governmental activities in the statement of net assets	(113,166)
Some liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Beginning long-term liabilities and current year additions	(41,520,170)
Long-term liability payments	2,928,924
Accrued interest payable	(343,852)
Deferred charges	151,129
Bond premium	(26,931)
Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit I)	\$ <u><u>54,016,516</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

	<u>General</u>	<u>Bonded Capital Projects</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Revenues:				
Property taxes	\$ 32,999,225	\$	\$	\$ 32,999,225
Intergovernmental	1,807,967		349,659	2,157,626
Charges for services	759,269	4,676	814,136	1,578,081
Investment income	804,328	2,473	83,097	889,898
Contributions			76,346	76,346
Total revenues	<u>36,370,789</u>	<u>7,149</u>	<u>1,323,238</u>	<u>37,701,176</u>
Expenditures:				
Current:				
General government	1,835,318		265,065	2,100,383
Public safety	1,871,189		118,012	1,989,201
Public works	1,952,296		243,074	2,195,370
Health and welfare	283,541		23,427	306,968
Education	21,625,026		180,554	21,805,580
Library	484,827		19,494	504,321
Parks and recreation	317,421		330,550	647,971
Employee benefits	2,079,832			2,079,832
Insurance	432,406			432,406
Debt service	4,390,424			4,390,424
Capital outlay		1,130,382	75,496	1,205,878
Total expenditures	<u>35,272,280</u>	<u>1,130,382</u>	<u>1,255,672</u>	<u>37,658,334</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>1,098,509</u>	<u>(1,123,233)</u>	<u>67,566</u>	<u>42,842</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Sale of capital assets	16,249			16,249
Transfers in	122,219		332,078	454,297
Transfers out	(332,078)		(122,219)	(454,297)
Net other financing sources (uses)	<u>(193,610)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>209,859</u>	<u>16,249</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	904,899	(1,123,233)	277,425	59,091
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	<u>4,458,765</u>	<u>(3,068,589)</u>	<u>2,980,782</u>	<u>4,370,958</u>
Fund Balances - End of Year	<u>\$ 5,363,664</u>	<u>\$ (4,191,822)</u>	<u>\$ 3,258,207</u>	<u>\$ 4,430,049</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

RECONCILIATION OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
TO CHANGES IN NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities (Exhibit II) are due to:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit IV) \$ 59,091

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.

Capital outlay	974,460
Depreciation expense	(1,268,025)

The net effect of various miscellaneous transactions involving capital assets (i.e., sales, trade-ins and donations) is to increase net assets. In the statement of activities, only the loss on the sale of capital assets is reported. However, in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale increase financial resources. Thus, the change in net assets differs from the change in fund balance by the cost of the capital assets sold (29,918)

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds and revenues recognized in the fund financial statements are not recognized in the statement of activities:

School building grant receipts	(33,249)
Increase in property tax receivable - accrual basis change	(65,121)
Decrease in property tax interest and lien revenue	(39,364)
Increase in property tax allowance for doubtful accounts	8,541

The issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds, leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net assets. Also, governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities. The details of long-term debt and related items are as follows:

Debt issued or incurred:	
General obligation bonds and bond anticipation notes	2,745,000

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds:

Landfill postclosure care	6,560
Heart and hypertension claims	(48,538)
Compensated absences	107,045
Accrued interest payable	40,090
Amortization of bond premium	3,366
Amortization of bond issue costs	(9,338)
Amortization of deferred charges	(18,891)
Net pension asset	86,076

Internal Service Funds are used by management to charge costs of medical insurance to individual departments:

The net revenue of the activities of the Internal Service Fund is reported with governmental activities	<u>155,885</u>
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Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit II)	<u>\$ 2,673,670</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

**GENERAL FUND  
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget</u>
Property Taxes:				
Property taxes, current and prior	\$ 32,529,851	\$ 32,529,851	\$ 32,779,477	\$ 249,626
Interest and lien fees	100,000	100,000	178,397	78,397
Telephone access	38,992	38,992	41,351	2,359
Total property taxes	<u>32,668,843</u>	<u>32,668,843</u>	<u>32,999,225</u>	<u>330,382</u>
Intergovernmental:				
Educational assistance:				
Special education and education cost share	405,842	405,842	537,216	131,374
Regional School District No. 9	20,041	20,041	19,747	(294)
School building grant	419,807	419,807	168,931	(250,876)
Other			861	861
Total educational assistance	<u>845,690</u>	<u>845,690</u>	<u>726,755</u>	<u>(118,935)</u>
Town Assistance:				
Town aid roads	108,693	108,693	113,827	5,134
Infrastructure	445,613	445,613		(445,613)
In lieu of tax loss - boats	4,814	4,814	4,814	-
Elderly tax relief	54,238	54,238	36,976	(17,262)
Tax relief for the totally disabled			266	266
State owned property	56,279	56,279	58,618	2,339
Mashantucket Pequot grant	16,359	16,359	22,702	6,343
Civil preparedness	2,052	2,052	1,361	(691)
Property tax relief (veterans)	5,735	5,735	9,359	3,624
Tax relief - elderly freeze	2,000	2,000	3,966	1,966
Miscellaneous	3,966	3,966	14,211	10,245
Total Town assistance	<u>699,749</u>	<u>699,749</u>	<u>266,100</u>	<u>(433,649)</u>
Total intergovernmental	<u>1,545,439</u>	<u>1,545,439</u>	<u>992,855</u>	<u>(552,584)</u>
Investment Income	<u>375,000</u>	<u>375,000</u>	<u>804,328</u>	<u>429,328</u>
Charges for Services:				
Town clerk	315,000	315,000	288,647	(26,353)
Building inspection fees and permits	125,000	125,000	159,185	34,185
Health department	18,000	18,000	18,625	625
Planning and zoning	22,000	22,000	18,668	(3,332)
Conservation commission	24,000	24,000	17,138	(6,862)
Police department	39,100	39,100	80,963	41,863

(Continued on next page)

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

**GENERAL FUND**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget</u>
Charges for Services (Continued):				
First selectman	\$ 203,167	\$ 203,167	\$ 150,605	\$ (52,562)
Fire marshall	200	200	100	(100)
Parks and recreation	2,930	2,930	3,545	615
Region 9 tuition	2,910	2,910	5,084	2,174
BOE tuition	1,946	1,946	4,185	2,239
Recycling bins			807	807
Highway department	1,400	1,400	1,419	19
Other	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>10,298</u>	<u>8,298</u>
Total charges for services	<u>757,653</u>	<u>757,653</u>	<u>759,269</u>	<u>1,616</u>
Total Revenues	<u>35,346,935</u>	<u>35,346,935</u>	<u>35,555,677</u>	<u>208,742</u>
Other Financing Sources:				
Sale of capital assets			16,249	16,249
Transfers in	<u>80,000</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>122,219</u>	<u>42,219</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>80,000</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>138,468</u>	<u>58,468</u>
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	<u>\$ 35,426,935</u>	<u>\$ 35,426,935</u>	35,694,145	<u>\$ 267,210</u>

Budgetary revenues are different than GAAP revenues because:

    State of Connecticut on-behalf contributions to the Connecticut

        State Teachers' Retirement System for Town teachers are not budgeted

815,112

Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources as Reported on the Statement of  
Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds -  
Exhibit IV

\$ 36,509,257

**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Additional Appropriations and Transfers</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget</u>
<b>General Government:</b>					
Town clerk	\$ 131,466	\$ 20,000	\$ 151,466	\$ 148,833	\$ 2,633
First selectman	147,540	5,000	152,540	152,308	232
Probate court	4,115		4,115	3,248	867
Registrar of voters	43,451	2,379	45,830	41,572	4,258
Board of finance	7,000		7,000	5,543	1,457
Auditors	35,050		35,050	32,390	2,660
Treasurer	204,962	4,962	209,924	204,576	5,348
Assessor	118,053	(19,500)	98,553	98,509	44
Board of assessment appeals	925		925	707	218
Tax collector	86,781		86,781	83,367	3,414
Town attorney	100,000	60,000	160,000	150,625	9,375
Planning and zoning commission	105,173		105,173	97,667	7,506
Zoning board of appeals	6,504		6,504	5,657	847
Building department	90,016		90,016	83,158	6,858
Town hall	138,199		138,199	131,345	6,854
Communication dispatchers	202,425		202,425	186,259	16,166
Commission for the elderly	49,417		49,417	48,837	580
Senior center	137,778	3,000	140,778	140,722	56
SSS building	206,000		206,000	204,824	1,176
Cemetery		15,200	15,200	14,600	600
Public celebrations	700		700	571	129
Total general government	<u>1,815,555</u>	<u>91,041</u>	<u>1,906,596</u>	<u>1,835,318</u>	<u>71,278</u>
<b>Public Safety:</b>					
Police department	1,366,174		1,366,174	1,332,711	33,463
Fire department	544,024	(76,758)	467,266	442,876	24,390
Fire marshal	26,692		26,692	18,454	8,238
Emergency management	9,957		9,957	7,943	2,014
Firehouse rent	40,000		40,000	40,000	-
Conservation commission	36,554		36,554	29,205	7,349
Total public safety	<u>2,023,401</u>	<u>(76,758)</u>	<u>1,946,643</u>	<u>1,871,189</u>	<u>75,454</u>
<b>Public Works:</b>					
Recycling	114,602	9,982	124,584	124,584	-
Highway department	2,024,680	(35,117)	1,989,563	1,791,842	197,721
Street lights	1,667		1,667	1,489	178
Engineering and professional services:	55,500		55,500	34,381	21,119
Total public works	<u>2,196,449</u>	<u>(25,135)</u>	<u>2,171,314</u>	<u>1,952,296</u>	<u>219,018</u>
<b>Health and Welfare:</b>					
PHNA	1,115		1,115	100	1,015
Health director	73,970		73,970	72,716	1,254
EMS commission	305,023	(50,000)	255,023	207,968	47,055
Welfare	3,940		3,940	2,757	1,183
Total health and welfare	<u>384,048</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>334,048</u>	<u>283,541</u>	<u>50,507</u>

(Continued on next page)

## TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT

**GENERAL FUND**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Additional Appropriations and Transfers</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget</u>
Education:					
Easton Board of Education:					
General instruction	\$ 6,689,975	\$ (109,145)	\$ 6,580,830	\$ 6,646,586	\$ (65,756)
Kindergarten	8,700		8,700	8,639	61
Humanities	26,368	2,436	28,804	26,922	1,882
Integrated language arts	25,987	3,500	29,487	28,979	508
Curriculum	32,320	1,468	33,788	33,855	(67)
Industrial technology	8,064	51	8,115	8,115	-
Science/math technology	31,416	2,470	33,886	33,415	471
Physical education/health	3,986		3,986	3,884	102
Special services	15,420		15,420	4,050	11,370
Special education	2,664,734	(20,704)	2,644,030	2,612,635	31,395
Guidance	6,206		6,206	6,882	(676)
Health services	141,997	(1,369)	140,628	139,958	670
Psychological services	34,085	(19,630)	14,455	9,348	5,107
Speech services	12,200	(1,000)	11,200	8,555	2,645
Educational media services	45,073		45,073	53,173	(8,100)
Technology plan	114,549		114,549	110,105	4,444
Board of education	47,055	(8,000)	39,055	51,863	(12,808)
Central administration	441,938		441,938	441,938	-
School administration	798,690	572	799,262	806,158	(6,896)
Operation/maintenance					
physical plant	1,147,696	64,630	1,212,326	1,176,815	35,511
Student transportation	735,973	84,721	820,694	820,557	137
Total Easton Board of Education	13,032,432		13,032,432	13,032,432	-
Regional School District No. 9	7,777,482		7,777,482	7,777,482	-
Total education	20,809,914	-	20,809,914	20,809,914	-
Library	500,959		500,959	484,827	16,132
Parks and Recreation:					
Parks and recreation commission	297,521		297,521	291,503	6,018
Tree warden	17,250	15,000	32,250	25,918	6,332
Total parks and recreation	314,771	15,000	329,771	317,421	12,350
Employee Benefits:					
Pensions	575,682	980	576,662	576,662	-
Fringe benefits	1,413,275		1,413,275	1,182,206	231,069
Social Security and Medicare	350,000		350,000	320,964	29,036
Total employee benefits	2,338,957	980	2,339,937	2,079,832	260,105

(Continued on next page)



**TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT  
REPORT OF TAX COLLECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007**

Grand List Year	Uncollected Taxes July 1, 2006	Current Year Levy	Lawful Corrections		Transfers to Suspense	Adjusted Taxes Collectible	Taxes	Collections		Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2007
			Additions	Deductions				Interest and Liens	Total	
2005	\$ 184,445	\$ 32,787,753	\$ 57,372	\$ 96,439	\$ -	\$ 32,748,686	\$ 32,583,227	\$ 65,806	\$ 32,649,033	\$ 165,459
2004	87,576		493	11,960		172,978	72,807	20,063	92,870	100,171
2003	40,010		196	2,381	13,720	71,671	33,916	10,495	44,411	37,755
2002	26,200		7	54		39,963	13,893	8,845	22,738	26,070
2001	19,350		3			26,203	6,405	4,846	11,251	19,798
2000	20,303					19,350	6,193	5,597	11,790	13,157
1999	18,358					20,303	5,863	6,485	12,348	14,440
1998	18,870					18,358	5,891	7,474	13,365	12,467
1997	25,794					18,870	5,697	8,048	13,745	13,173
1996	18,963					25,794	10,172	15,001	25,173	15,622
1995	15,871					18,963	5,139	9,274	14,413	13,824
1994	13,737					15,871	4,875	9,676	14,551	10,996
1993	8,270					13,737	4,176	3,664	7,840	9,561
1992	8,444					8,270	-	-	-	8,270
1991	6,852					8,444	-	-	-	8,444
1990						-	-	3,123	3,123	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 513,043</b>	<b>\$ 32,787,753</b>	<b>\$ 58,071</b>	<b>\$ 117,686</b>	<b>\$ 13,720</b>	<b>\$ 33,227,461</b>	<b>\$ 32,758,254</b>	<b>\$ 178,397</b>	<b>\$ 32,936,651</b>	<b>\$ 469,207</b>

Property taxes receivable considered available:  
June 30, 2006 (19,848)

June 30, 2007 41,071

Property Tax Revenues \$ 32,779,477



TOWN OF EASTON, CT 06612

